

BAY AREA REPORTER

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1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

VOL. XIV NO. 14 APRIL 5, 1984

Bathhouse Closing Decided, Delayed, Debunked



A Castro Street idler checks out the latest AIDS posters. This week bath closing riled the Gay community. (Photo: Rink)

Community, Ignited by Issue, Opposes Shutdown

by George Mendenhall

Many Gay men began to think about AIDS and their own sexual practices seriously for the first time last week. The word was out that San Francisco's famed steam baths and possibly other sex-related businesses could be closed by the city's health director, Mervyn Silverman. It was difficult to ascertain what the Gay community as a whole thought of this possible move, but its leaders and activists were overwhelmingly against closure.

It was clear that Silverman himself, who receives continuing input about AIDS and is considered highly informed on the subject, had not been able to make up his mind. He called a press conference to allegedly make THE announcement and then postponed the decision. While the city's top officials apparently favored closure, Silverman remained calm as he evaluated the legal and medical problems involved in such a move. He says the decision may take two more weeks of deliberation.

Sensational daily headlines and quickie news reports baffled the Gay community as well as the general public. *Bay Area Reporter* was inundated with television cameras and inquiring reporters while staff members attempted to pull the story together. Finally, it was decided that amidst the confusion a chronology of the week's major events would help:

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

A Gay deputy sheriff, Larry Littlejohn, went to City Hall and filed an intent to circulate an initiative petition which, if successful, would have made it city policy to prohibit "sexual activity among patrons of public bath houses." There was general agreement among the Gay activists and doctors that the initiative would get the necessary 7,332 signatures and be approved by the voters in November. The fear that this would call for a city ordinance from the Board of Supervisors that would eventually result in a locked-in and irreversible closure of the steam baths and sex clubs.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

A group of five Gay activists and six Gay doctors met at the home of psychiatrist David Kessler to discuss a possible newspaper advertisement explaining the AIDS crisis. During the meeting the co-director of the AIDS/KS Foundation, Dr. Marcus Conant, said he had talked with Dr. Mervyn Silverman, Public Health Director.

There is confusion among those who attended as to what

Conant related. Evidently, he indicated that Silverman might move quickly to close the city's steam baths because of an alleged link between bath house sex and AIDS. The group voted 10-2 to support a baths closure.

This led to an immediate statement being drafted by the participants and an organized effort was launched to get broad Gay community support for the closure with 100 signatures as the goal. Callers had difficulty

(Continued on page 10)

Gay Men Will be Screened Out of Giving Blood

New Test Will Eliminate High Risk AIDers

The Irwin Memorial Blood Bank revealed last week that all blood donated will undergo a second testing to eliminate contaminated blood.

The new test, which will begin May 1, is targeted ostensibly at detecting hepatitis. However, the real reason is that the new testing will eliminate the blood from Gay men from entering the system. Dr. Herbert Perkins, Scientific Director, of the blood bank said that the new blood testing will screen out "about 90 percent of all people in groups at high risk for AIDS."

Four categories of people make up the high risk AIDS group: hemophiliacs, Haitians, intravenous drug users, and Gay men. Little likelihood exists that hemophiliacs donate blood. Few Haitians reside in San Francisco, and of the last two high risk groups, in San Francisco, Gay men are in the vast majority.

The additional hepatitis test, known as the core antibody test, will reveal evidence of past infection of hepatitis. About 90% of Gay men, according to the Irwin Blood Bank, carry the core antibody of hepatitis. The test will insure that no blood given by a Gay man (a high risk for AIDS) will be transfused. There exists no test to detect AIDS in blood.

Perkins said the new test will enhance the safety of the community blood supply in two ways. It will reduce further the risk of post-transfusion hepatitis and will serve as an added safety net for screening donors at high risk for AIDS.

Currently the blood bank screens for AIDS-possible donors

by a series of medical questions and will soon offer donors a "discreet, post donation method of recalling their donation if they believe their blood is not safe for transfusions."

The Blood Bank admits that their current screening (in addition to the new test) will not detect AIDS. Neither has their current screening for hepatitis eliminated hepatitis B as a cause of post-transfusion hepatitis. The test cannot detect the presence of another hepatitis virus known as non-A, non-B, which can be present in healthy donors. The core antibody test, however, will detect blood that is twice as likely to transmit the non-A, non-B virus, thereby serving as an additional screening for hepatitis.

Perkins emphasized that Gay men (90% of whom carry the core antibody) with few exceptions, should have no concern that its presence indicates illness. They have been either been cured of hepatitis B or developed an antibody on their own. ■

State Readies Quarantine Format for AIDS Patients

Public Health Officials, State Attorneys Take First Steps in Restraint of Movement

by Paul Lorch

Dr. James Chin, State of California Chief of Infectious Disease, has begun the initial procedure of setting up a quarantine protocol for AIDS patients.

Of concern to Dr. Chin is what to do or what can be done to people with AIDS "who do not follow the recommendations of the health department." Chin began work in December 1983 and opened a discussion with the state's Office of Legal Services in Sacramento.

Following up on several phone conversations, Chin wrote a memorandum to Ramon Perez at the Office of Legal Services outlining his plan. Chin laid out the steps that could be taken if an AIDS patient refused to follow the recommendations submitted by the health department.

Chin was concerned over the AIDS patient who would have sexual relations with partners who did not know of his condition. The Chief of Infectious Disease recommended that first the PWA be contacted by the local health department. The PWA (person with AIDS) would be informed in word and in print of the "need to adhere to public health recommendations such as abstaining from sexual activities that could transmit a possible AIDS agent to sexual contacts

who are unaware he has AIDS."

Next, if the patient either denies he has AIDS or is "openly hostile and refuses to adhere to medical recommendations," that the local health department refer the patient to an AIDS support group who would counsel the patient. The idea being to change his behavior by a talk from his peers.

If this step failed, the public health official would go further and issue orders for a "modified isolation." The health department orders would detail the need to adhere to policies. It would also outline quarantine procedures that would be implemented.

Again, if this warning failed and the PWA ignored the order to modify behavior, the local health department would take

severe measures. They would quarantine the patient's residence by posting a sign at the

(Continued on page 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

How leader types are reacting to the closing of the baths and sex clubs p. 2

Stonewall fights bath closure — Bruce Pettit p. 3

Whistles stop an armed assault — Allen White . . . p. 5

Bay Area Reporter's new feature: Our weekly calendar, "This Week" . . . pp. 18-19

CLOSE THE BATHS?

Community Voices Respond

by George Mendenhall

Gay activists divided this week as the possible closure of the city's Gay steam baths and sex-related businesses continued to be considered by Mervyn Silverman, the city's Director of Public Health. One group urged him to close everything down. In addition, an intent to circulate a petition to criminalize sex in the baths has been filed by a Gay deputy sheriff, Larry Littlejohn. Here are some community reactions:



Jo Daly - opposed (Photo: Rink)

Jo Daly, City Police Commissioner: If Silverman determines that closing the baths can save one life, that it would slow down this horrible disease, I support him. However, if we can voluntarily act I would prefer that. I would prefer that we not rely on government to interfere with our lives . . . I believe that if these people could see their partners they are having sex with on the outside they would never take them home.

Lawrence Wilson, Toklas Democrats and Police attorney: Some people believe that Silver-

man not closing them was a joyous victory, but I do not feel that anyone is dealing with the Littlejohn initiative. Those of us who met wanted to put AIDS on the front burner of Gay community concerns and we did that. No one thought closing the baths would be the answer, that it would stop AIDS. But people who believe AIDS is not spread by sex are kidding themselves.



Law Wilson - in favor (Photo: Rink)

Morris Kight, longtime Los Angeles Gay activist: The closing of the baths would assist the homophobes, who would believe that they have won a victory. It would be nothing but a public relations gimmick. The truth is that we still do not know if it is sexually transmitted . . . Alcoholism is also a very real problem so evidently we should close the bars. Over-weightness could call for the closing of restaurants. The message is that pleasurable things should be stopped. This is puritanism.

Harry Britt, City Supervisor: I have always insisted that Gay physicians be involved in any decision-making and I have indicated that I would support whatever decisions are made if Gay physicians are involved. I received information before Silverman's press conference that Gay physicians had made the decision to close the baths. Now, I hear that Silverman believes that there is no medical evidence . . . One thing that was agreed upon in a meeting in the mayor's office was that any decision would be made in a nonhomophobic atmosphere. The decision about the bathhouses will come from people who care very much about our rights. No one is going to find homophobia here — even with Dianne (the mayor). She is being super. If we suspect homophobia, then we should be political as hell.



Rooftop bathhouse hijinks — other than what is assured is going on. (Photo: Rink)

Marty Cox, AIDS patient: Probably less than 5% of the Gay male population goes to bathhouses. Even if they were full every night they would only hold a portion of us. Most Gay males are masturbating a lot — keeping their hands busy. Most people are meeting in bars. Should we close them too? . . . There are probably not two people with AIDS who agree with each other, but I believe the baths are clean, safe places that should stay open. They even provide people with AIDS a place to clean up as some are now forced to live in flophouses.

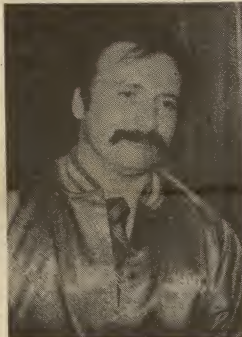
Carole Migden, President, Milk Democrats; Director, Operation Concern: If there was typhoid, we would close the public pools. There is medical evidence to indicate that those who frequent bathhouses are of high risk with a preponderance of cases traced to the bathhouses and the people who frequent them. Doctors should be setting the policy on this and the doctors and Silverman were both saying YES to closure. We also recognize that the Littlejohn initiative could have changed things because of the homophobia it would generate.

Dr. Tim Wolfred, President, Community College Board: Whether the baths are closed should be a medical decision. My interest is to get a massive educational campaign going and public money allotted to support alternatives to high risk sexual activity. The longer this controversy continues, the more pressure there will be in the general community to close the baths. I am surprised how little straight and Gay people know about the high incidence of AIDS. The pressure was building in the medical community toward closure anyway, and the Littlejohn initiative had the effect of putting this issue before us hurriedly.



Tim Wolfred, Carole Migden - in favor (Photo: Vicki Lenz)

Sal Rosselli, President, Toklas Democrats: Closure of sex-related businesses would have a detrimental effect on the Gay liberation movement. We need to limit and reduce the high risk practices in sex houses. I am hoping that the owners of the sex establishments will take a leading role in contributing to the success of the AIDS Foundation educational program. I am hoping that all members of our community will now be more responsible toward preventing the spread of AIDS. The ultimate aim is that no one in our community would engage in high risk sex that appears to be responsible for transmitting AIDS.



Sal Rosselli - opposed (Photo: Vicki Lenz)

Bill Kraus, Aide to Congresswoman Sala Burton: It is clear that we now have to make drastic changes in our sexual behavior in order to save lives. It is very difficult to justify the type of activity that goes on in the bathhouses in the middle of an epidemic. The doctors that I have worked with on AIDS research funding say that the bathhouses should be closed . . . Politically, it is going to become increasingly difficult to tell straight politicians that there is a terrible crisis if we don't act like there is a crisis ourselves. The argument that the baths allow people to be educated while there is the same as keeping people in a burning building as a reminder that a fire exists.

Jim Foster, nationally known Gay political activist: Placing an emphasis on the bathhouses and related businesses shifts the focus away from where the major effort must be in this crisis — the refusal of this federal administration to recognize the severity of this situation . . . The other issue is behavior patterns. We need condoms and everything else that works. We need an imagery in our pornography where safe practices are illustrated . . . As for the bathhouses, it has not been my direction in 22 years in the movement to save bathhouses. I am not sure that they play a major role in the ultimate

(Continued on page 12)

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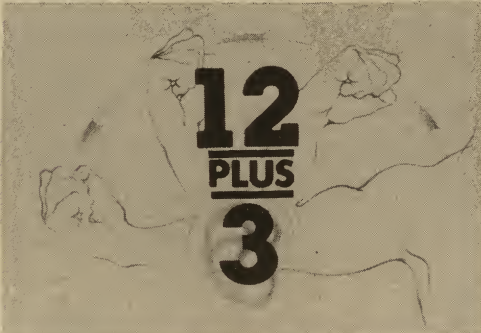
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NOW THRU APRIL 11

Stonewall Opposes Sex Club Closure; Calls for Changes

by Bruce Pettit

Stonewall Gay Democratic Club members were clearly annoyed Monday night at what they regarded as a small cadre of Gay community leaders "who purport to speak for the entire community" advising closure of the bathhouses and sex clubs. Nevertheless, Stonewall stopped short of censure in hopes of forestalling further divisions that have occurred so quickly in the latest eruption in the AIDS crisis.

However, Stonewall voted to "condemn the haphazard manner in which the Department of Public Health is making decisions regarding the Lesbian/Gay bathhouses and sex clubs." It urged "immediate consultation with a broad spectrum of our community before making a final decision on this issue."

Stonewall also called upon owners of bathhouses and sex clubs to make "radical changes" to diminish "high risk" conditions and to promote "safe sex."

Dr. Mervyn Silverman, San Francisco's director of public health, was prepared on March 29 to close the bathhouses and sex clubs on March 30. Stonewall president Paul Boneberg told his club Monday night that he and other Gay leaders persuaded Silverman to attend a meeting at Valencia Rose the night of March 29. There, Boneberg believed, "Dr. Silverman became convinced that, at the very least, there was not a groundswell of support" in the Gay community for closure. Boneberg thought the message may have gotten through that "the Lesbian/Gay community should be consulted in such a crucial decision."

A protracted club discussion



Stonewall regulars led off by Ben Gardiner (l.) protested those that would shut down Gay places. (Photo: Rink)

revealed that members acknowledged the issues were complex. Vice president Leslie Manning said the Gay community — and particularly the AIDS/KS Foundation — had failed in its assurances that it would persuade Gay men to change their sexual practices. The attempts at closure "are a direct result of that failure."

But Bob Basker felt that closure would "herald a reign of

terror" for renewed attacks on Gays from "vigilante kids and adults." Bill Paul regarded a proposed initiative policy statement by activist Larry Littlejohn to prohibit sex practices in bathhouses as electoral disaster that needed to be deflected. "But harsh closure will have reverberations all over the country."

Ralph Payne, however, was not distressed at the Littlejohn initiative, for it forced the Gay

community to address something it was avoiding. "We have to address people making a lot of money on high risk, high frequency sex practices which our own doctors are telling us are killing us. We have to look at that and not be afraid to touch it."

The club voted against closure "at this time" and barely defeated a move against closure "at any time."

to try to sell him as Harvey Milk."

Connie O'Connor said Hart is reluctant to co-sponsor the Senate Gay rights bill "because the right wing almost defeated him in 1980."

Supervisor Harry Britt made a pitch for Hart: "Hart cannot only defeat Ronald Reagan, but we will be in a position to build Lesbian and Gay political power

Stonewall's Bob Basker: Bath closure would "herald a reign of terror."

NO ONE FOR PRESIDENT

Stonewall endorsed no candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. The club overwhelmingly supported the Rev. Jesse Jackson in a straw poll two months ago, but since then the campaign of Colorado Senator Gary Hart has caught on fire. In last Monday's balloting, Jackson had 26 votes, Hart 20, and Walter Mondale 8 (four members voted for no endorsement). Thirty votes were needed for endorsement.

A. Billy S. Jones contended that Jackson not only has the best position on Gay rights but "the mere presence of Jackson in this campaign has kept the issue of Lesbians and Gays in the forefront . . . We need him at the Democratic convention so that our issue gets articulated." Jones said that Mondale is afraid to say the word "Gay" and that Hart is reluctant to endorse a Gay rights bill in Congress.

Jack Trujillo insisted that Mondale has been very open "to me" in talking about Gay issues. But he noted, "Mondale is a Midwestern senator who has to be pushed along. He is not Harvey Milk, and I'm not going

with Hart. I would not be supporting Gary Hart if I were not convinced he is going to have the strongest presence of Lesbians and Gay men in his campaign of any campaign in the history of the United States."

Ben Gardiner said that Jackson's "saying the right things has had an effect on the Black community. It has been difficult to get Black people to endorse Gay rights, (although) it has not been difficult to get Black legislators to endorse Gay rights."

In other action, Stonewall gave an 81% endorsement to Proposition K on the June ballot. Prop. K would restrict construction of new buildings over 40 feet in height if they would cast shadows on any city parks.

Stonewall endorsed 13 people for the Democratic County Central Committee election. In the 16th Assembly District: Connie O'Connor, Eddie Baca, Linda Post, Cleve Jones, Dennis Peron, Jack Trujillo, and JoAnne Miller. In the 17th AD: Greg Day, Louise Minnick, Ron Huberman, Paula Fiscal, and Anne Daley. In the 19th AD: Arlo Smith, Jr. ■

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HEADLINES

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Pickets Greet Guv at Hyatt Regency

Rumors Persist That No Gay Waiters Would Serve "The Duke"

by Allen White

Last Saturday night Gay protesters again made good their promise to be vocally present when Governor George Deukmejian makes a public appearance. At his first public appearance in San Francisco since his veto of AB-1, more than 150 pickets marched in front of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

While television cameras focused in on the demonstration, the governor was inside at a banquet. The governor's security force had anticipated the pickets and reports indicate the governor was given extremely heavy security.

Employees at the Hyatt Regency were outraged at a rumor that circulated swiftly through the hotel. The report was that security officers with the governor had demanded that no Gay person be allowed to serve Deukmejian at the banquet. There were also rumors

that two waiters walked off the job rather than bow to the intimidation.

Todd McCullough, Assistant Director of Catering and Conventions for the hotel, denied the charges. McCullough worked the banquet and said that if any such requests had been made, they would have been to him. McCullough said the only request regarding waiters for the governor was to know the person so a security authorization could be given. He also said no person walked off the job.

McCullough did say they were

aware of the sensitivity of the issue at the hotel. All people who would have to work with Governor Deukmejian who were Gay were asked if they would like other assignments. McCullough said there were no problems.

McCullough and other managers at the Hyatt Regency did acknowledge that the rumor was

known throughout the hotel. One caller to the *Bay Area Reporter* about the rumor said that the hotel would be trying to cover up any problems.

In Sacramento, Kevin Brett, a press aide to the governor, stated they would have no comment regarding the alleged incident.

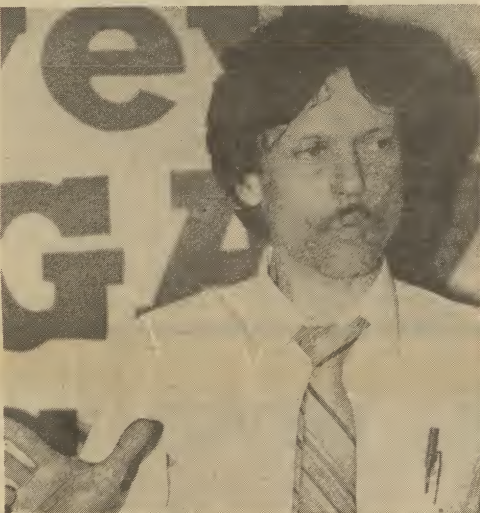
City Hall Press Event

"AIDS Prevention Week" Brings Out the Media

by Paul Lorch

"Play Safe" was the official word coming out of City Hall this week as Mayor Feinstein kicked off "AIDS Prevention Week."

Buttons were passed out to guests in the Mayor's office Monday as well as to almost the city's entire press corps. The media came out in force for AIDS, not for the week of education, but to find out more about Public Health Director Merv Silverman's aborted decision to close down the city's Gay bathhouses and play pens. Nobody was talking about last Friday's scrubbed mission impossible.



Dr. Bob Bolan was the media entree to bathhouse closing at AIDS Prevention kickoff. (Photo: Rink)

The rumors and the protests are all part of a growing vocal movement against Governor George Deukmejian. Assembly Bill 1, introduced by Assemblyman Art Agnos, would have protected job rights for Gays and Lesbians. Deukmejian vetoed the bill on March 13. Participants in a group loosely called "Operation Duke Watch" have now vowed to follow the governor throughout the state to establish a presence at all of his speaking engagements to make Gay demands known. ■

The Mayor set the tone with her opening remarks that the press conference was *not* going to be about bathhouse closings, but about education.

The press corps let her off the hook, but they pressed the question on Dr. Bob Bolan, president of the local AIDS/KS Foundation. Bolan refused to avoid the question, yet refused to get embroiled in it. Bolan was one of the original petitioners last week to Dr. Silverman to close the baths. He has since abandoned that position and gave the impression that he was opposed to the wholesale shutting down of Gay sex establishments.

Bolan said that the week-long program was designed "to challenge people to change behaviors which may put them at high risk" with regards to AIDS.

Specifically targeted this week are those groups which are currently defined as the "most at risk." The only description of "most at risk" is those who continue to have multiple sex partners. Nobody can identify these "addicted" (as Bolan described them) sexers, but the consensus is that these are the habitués of the baths and sex clubs.

As of March 5, 1984 the CDC in Atlanta reported 3,646 AIDS cases (San Francisco reported 440 cases) of these, 1,566 (43%) are dead.

The AIDS cases identified by the Center for Disease Control reflect only those cases which conform to the CDC's strict case definition. Several thousand other cases have been reported, but have not been officially counted. ■

Quarantine

(Continued from page 1)

person's address. The sign would indicate that a person "with a communicable disease which can be transmitted by intimate contact resides in the household."

Dr. Chin then asked the state's attorneys if his plan would encounter "any significant legal problems" for either the local health departments or the state health department.

In mid-February Sharon Mosley responded from Sacramento, advising Dr. Chin that health officers "have broad authority to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of disease." In cases of contagious infections or communicable disease, the community's health may be protected through "isolation" (strict or modified) or through "quarantine."

The length of any quarantine or isolation is as long as necessary.

Any violations of either strictures are reportable to the district attorney and, as they are misdemeanors, are punishable.

In addition, if a person violates the isolation or quarantine, they abandon their right to confidentiality and privacy.

The behavior that would re-

quire restrictions must be documented. This the state's attorneys stressed and suggested that public health officers take serious steps earlier rather than later in the process.

The state lawyers pointed out that a patient's right to privacy is guaranteed by the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 1. However, these rights are not

place." No statutes or regulations existed authorizing posting signs. The last law that permitted sign hanging was repealed in 1957. Again, a patient's right to privacy was raised. Mosley wrote, "In many cases, public exposure of this information would serve no productive purpose and would result in unwarranted invasion of privacy."



NGRA's legal director, Leonard Graff obtains state's plans on quarantine. (Photo: Vicki Lenz)

absolute and "must be weighed against the necessity of protecting public health." Still, speculation regarding a person's activity or a hostile attitude is not enough to take overly severe measures.

Attorney Mosley was not happy with Chin's Step 4 which called for the posting of a placard at the patient's residence. She wrote, "There appears to be

no need for a quarantine of a

Leonard Graff, Legal Director of National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), secured the correspondence exchange. He petitioned Dr. Chin in Berkeley under the California Public Records Act for all relevant documents. Dr. Chin's office responded within days with copies of the interdepartmental correspondence. ■



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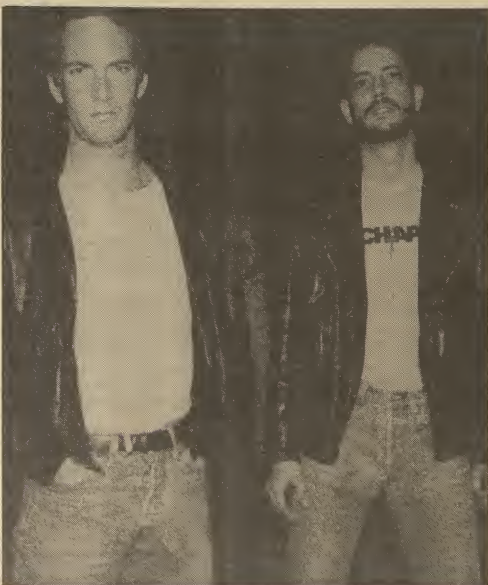
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Whistles Foil Upper Market Holdup

Trio Flee Crowd, Guns Blazing, Police in Pursuit

by Allen White

Three men were arrested last weekend following an armed holdup attempt and a wild gun-blazing chase through the upper Market Street area. Over two dozen people blowing whistles are credited with sabotaging the robbers' efforts.



Attack victims Richard MacIntyre (l.) and Erik Nielsen (r.) — when confronted they began blowing whistles. (Photo: Rink)

The incident took place on Saturday, March 25, at Castro and States Streets. Richard MacIntyre and his friend, Erik Nielsen, were walking up Castro after leaving the Detour bar at 2 a.m. As they neared States Street, they realized three men were closing in on them. One of the men, Ralph Alvarez, 20, pro-

duced a handgun and aiming straight at MacIntyre's stomach said, "Don't say a word, just give us your wallet."

MacIntyre said it didn't seem like the man knew how to use a gun. He thought they were bluffing, and he and Erik Nielsen moved back into Castro Street and Nielsen began blowing his

whistle. The noise attracted attention, scared the robbers, and brought the police. Police estimated that over 25 people were blowing whistles.

As the police arrived, the three jumped into a pickup and started their getaway. A black BMW pulled into the path and blocked the way. The guns started firing. As glass began to shatter from the gunshots, the attackers sped off. People began yelling, "That's them, get them," and the cops were off in pursuit.

With Alvarez at the wheel, the truck hit speeds of over forty miles an hour. Police were right behind with red lights flashing and sirens screaming.

As the police gave chase, they heard three pops from the gun and saw puffs of smoke coming from the pickup. The chase went up States Street, running a stop sign, over Levant and wound around Upper Terrace. Police were now responding from all over as they headed off the trio at Roosevelt and Upper Terrace. Arrested with Ralph Alvarez was Thomas Reidy, 20, and Kevin Kyne, also 20.

The officers returned to assess the damage. Many commented that only in San Francisco do the plainclothes cops wear t-shirts saying, "Where's the beef?" What they found were two cars with bullet holes in their wind-

shields, a couple of dozen people with whistles, and two guys who, having been drinking for the last four hours, were ready to literally piss in their pants. What they didn't find was the gun.

The weapon would be found the next morning in the bushes on States Street. Police chose an interesting plan to locate the gun. They drove down the street throwing a piece of wood out of their car. It was hoped that the wood, like the gun, might bounce to the same spot. It worked like a charm, and they found the gun in some weeds beside a granite water slough.

Captain Vic Macia of Mission Station credited the fast action by people in the community with heading off what could have been a deadly incident. Carrying and blowing whistles has long been a theme of Community United Against Violence. Macia believes it significant that residents throughout the area near the robbery attempt had been given leaflets outlining the use of whistles in the last month. The residential canvassing effort had been led by CUAV's Stef Mattfeld.

Erik Nielsen, a former manager of Sylvester, said he had owned a whistle for over five years and this was the first time he had to use it. Richard MacIntyre was sure the robbers didn't know the proper way to handle a gun. Having congratulated himself on his own bravery, MacIntyre gasped in disbelief as a small truth became a revelation. "Oh, my God," he said, "there really were bullets in the gun!"

Gay Judge Fights Removal from Bench

A Minnesota state district court judge is appealing a review panel recommendation that he be removed from his elected post because he had engaged in sex with male prostitutes.

Judge Robert Crane Winton, Jr. pleaded guilty last year to two misdemeanor charges and returned to the bench. However, the Board of Judicial Standards for the state recently issued a finding that Winton's actions put him at odds with the sodomy statute he had been sworn to uphold, and "damaged public confidence in the judiciary."

New York City-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed an *amicus* ("friend of the court") brief in the state's Supreme Court challenging the Board's recommendation. "The linchpin of the harsh sanction the Board has recommended is an underlying hostility towards homosexuals and homosexual conduct," the Lambda brief states. "The Board has cited no case where a judge had been removed from office on the basis of private consensual sexual conduct."

Lambda Managing Attorney Abby R. Rubinfeld notes that in a similar case involving a male judge in the same state who had solicited a female prostitute, the judge was censured, not dismissed. "This is another instance of different and prejudicial treatment for Gays and Lesbians. The imposition of vastly different sanctions for the same conduct cannot constitutionally be justified," she said.

Small Turnout to Protest Sex Club Closing

by Allen White

Twenty-two people gathered at Castro and Market last Sunday for a march to protest the closing of San Francisco's bathhouses. The poorly-planned event was to have been the first time the general public would be able to make a public statement regarding the controversial issue.

For two days, event organizer Bill Camillo had been trying to stir enthusiasm for a march. As he passed out his leaflets in the Castro, Camillo said he received a positive response from about three out of four people. Unlike other handouts, Camillo said each person taking a flyer was very opinionated. Those disagreeing with Camillo on the bathhouse issue were equally vocal as his supporters.

As Camillo realized the numbers were not there, he abandoned the idea of a march and opted for a rally at Harvey Milk Plaza. To stir some excitement, he led the group down Castro to 19th and then returned to the Market Street location. Along the way he managed to double the size of his crowd to about fifty people.

The media wanted a hot story about AIDS for the 11 o'clock news and they showed up *en masse*. Camillo had also lined up a group of speakers to make a statement. Bobby Campbell, a person with AIDS, was the first on the list. He was followed by Sister Boom Boom, Gerry Parker, Howard Wallace, bathhouse owner Sal Accardi, and Earl Galvin.

Sal Accardi, who heads an area association of bathhouse owners, was displeased that the protest rally had taken place. He only learned of the rally an hour earlier on a radio news broadcast. "This is not an issue to be debated in the streets," he said. He wasn't surprised to see the small turnout. For Accardi, it pointed up his contention that less than 5% of the Gay community goes to the baths.

Earl Galvin, one of the speakers, gave a more unusual reason for turning out. He is a member of a club called the San Francisco Jacks. He says the mutual masturbation society will have no place to meet if the clubs close. With a membership of 300, he said that about 100 come together at any one time.

Bill Camillo said the failure to draw more people could be attributed to the fact that people simply felt "they had more important things to do." He alluded to the many meetings which had taken place throughout the city earlier in the day on the same subject. He also acknowledged that he had received comments from some Gay political leaders who believed the rally would be "inappropriate." ■

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NEXT ISSUE OUT: APRIL 12

NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 6

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Killing the Movement

The Gay Liberation Movement in San Francisco almost died last Friday morning at 11 a.m.

No, that's not quite it. The Gay Liberation Movement here and then everywhere else was almost killed off by 16 Gay men and 1 Lesbian last Friday morning.

This group, whose number changed by the hour as people got on and off what they hoped would be a rollercoaster, signed a request or gave their names to give the green light to the annihilation of Gay life. This group would have empowered government forces to enter our private precincts and rule over and regulate our sex lives.

For 25 years in San Francisco a battle has raged to drive government agencies out of interfering with our sex lives. Those agencies include the police, the district attorney, City Hall, the fire department, mayors, supervisors, city licensing agencies, and public health. Twenty years ago in San Francisco bars were raided wholesale and people were arrested for dancing with each other. The charge was that same-sex couples were touching.

A point had been reached in that Gay men could go about their business in clubs, establishments, baths, bars, bookstores without interference. Well almost, for never a truce was declared and only constant vigilance pushed back the forces that would interfere, that would grind Gay men under the boot.

Eight years ago then-Supervisor Dianne Feinstein led a protracted campaign to move porno bookstores out of sight and thereby out of town.

Right now, day after day, Gay men are being entrapped in Buena Vista Park and in various points of Golden Gate Park. The entrappers are plainclothes police in fetching 501 jeans.

Right now we have a Gay judge, Herb Donaldson. That very same Gay judge is systematically denied from sitting on cases involving sexual transgression.

And it is almost axiomatic that anything board president Wendy Nelder is for will be bad news for the Gay movement and the Gay community. And the perennial daddy's girl wants to close us down.

These sixteen collaborators would have fingered a string of baths, sex clubs, bookstores — from the Jaguar to Le Salon to any tub they decided a hazard to good health. If Ringold Alley can qualify, why not the CMC Carnival, the Cable Car Awards, the Closet Ball, and yes, even the Gay Freedom Day Parade? Wherever Gay men meet, there is sexual energy unleashed, and when the first curative closings don't work, only more closings will satisfy the zealots' appetites. This very newspaper would not be very long immune.

The Gay community should remember those names well — not etch them into their anger and regret.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Harry Britt | 9. Frank Robinson |
| 2. Tim Wolfred | 10. Hank Wilson |
| 3. Dick Pabich | 11. Ron Huberman |
| 4. Law Wilson | 12. Bill Kraus |
| 5. Carole Migden | 13. Steve Morin |
| 6. Dr. Marcus Conant | 14. Bob Scott |
| 7. Dr. Robert Bolan | 15. Dennis Collins |
| 8. Dr. Rick Andrews | |

and the traitor *extraordinaire*,
Larry Littlejohn

These people would have given away our right to assemble, our right to do with our own bodies what we choose, the few gains we have made over the past 25 years. These 16 would have killed the movement — glibly handing it all over to the forces that have beaten us down since time immemorial.

The original ten or twelve spent an entire day trying to recruit more names to join their zealotry. They called hundreds of peo-

(Continued on next page)

Experts Sound Off

Dear Dr. Silverman:

★ We, the undersigned faculty members of The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, would like to urge you to stand firm in your decision not to close the Gay bathhouses in San Francisco. We understand that you are facing considerable political pressure to close them. We feel this would be a serious error for the following reasons:

1. In the past few weeks, there has been considerable effort by a large number of persons to develop an educational program of safe sex in the Gay community in general, focusing on the baths in particular. This educational program consists of lectures, videotapes, discussion groups and demonstrations of various methods for safe sex. A major program has been scheduled for next Wednesday evening at one of the Gay baths, which will pull together all of the research and development that has been taking place during the past few months. As you know, the Gay baths are the point of access for research on AIDS and education for the high-risk group.
2. As persons who spend their lives studying sexual behavior, we know that the sexual activity will simply move to other locations, such as heterosexual baths, parks, private clubs, and other Gay gathering places. Moving the sexual activity underground will hinder any scientific and professional approaches to dealing with solutions to the problem.
3. The suggestion that closing the baths would solve the problem is hysterical, short-sighted, simplistic and obvious in its political rather than humanitarian motivation.

San Francisco is fortunate in having a large number of professional sexologists and the only graduate school of sexology in the world. We are willing to pledge our support and assistance in finding a real solution to this health dilemma that concerns us all.

Ted McIlvenna, M.Div., Ph.D.

Wardell B. Pomeroy, Ph.D.

Loretta Haroian, Ph.D.

Lewis E. Durham, Ed.D.

Erwin J. Haeberle, Ph.D.

Charles Moser, Ph.D.

Laird Sutton, Ph.D.

Clark Taylor, Ph.D.

David N. Lourea, Ed.D.

Accentuate the Positive

★ Larry Littlejohn's concern about doing something to contain the spread of AIDS is laudable. Yet, the suggestion to close down bathhouses — because they are alleged breeding grounds for AIDS — not only smacks at oppression within the gay community, but is a divisive, negative and counter-productive response.

I believe a more responsible and positive approach to contain the spread of AIDS is available. It is not necessary to destroy gay businesses — and with it, gay jobs.

At present, AIDS is peculiarly a gay problem; and casual sex meeting places are suspect in spreading the disease.

I would urge Larry Littlejohn to convene a community-wide meeting at the Pride Center with all due haste. It should comprise representatives from bathhouses, sex clubs and bars; health and social organizations; and the gay media — whose support is of paramount importance.

The purpose of the meeting would be to implement a threefold plan of action: (1) to keep the gay community informed on the latest developments concerning AIDS; (2) to promote hygiene and health awareness; (3) to provide alternatives to sexual promiscuity, i.e., social activities, community service, personal growth programs.

Prohibition was not the cure for alcoholism — even

as outlawing automobiles is not the answer to the annual carnage from over 50,000 traffic deaths and hundreds of thousands of injuries.

Education is the be all and end all of a balanced, happy, healthy life! Let's proceed accordingly.

Tom James, President
Professionals Over 30/SF

Who Signed for the Bath Closings?

★ Harry Britt did it again. More secret meetings behind closed doors. This time Britt has Larry Littlejohn and a posse of morality cowboys with him. I know Britt and Littlejohn and their so called "Gay Leader" act, but who are the others? I want names. I want the names of all these "leaders" who signed that unconstitutional and immoral agreement with Silverman to close the bathhouses.

We all know how Feinstein feels — now with her henchman Boas. Everyone forgot about her anti-gay feelings during that unfortunate impeachment attempt. The Gay community has been ripped off by "Gay merchants," as customers and as employees and now the "secret deals" made by "Gay politicians," are ripping off the "Gay merchants." Nice turn about.

Britt never knows when to quit. Why doesn't he get his head out of his Bible and learn some law. Bathhouses are private property — designated as private clubs. Remember the consenting adult law — you may do behind closed doors whatever two or more wish to do — it hasn't been on the books long. Maybe Britt should repeal that law to start with before he begins his next "morality play" at City Hall.

And with AIDS — I thought it was prolonged contact that spread AIDS, not casual contact, and believe me sex in bathhouses is casual and not very prolonged. Now lovers are another matter; a lover is nothing casual and usually all too prolonged. Britt could outlaw lovers next. How about it, Harry? Don't forget to close the door of the closet at your next secret meeting.

Forest
San Francisco

Potential Link

★ The rationale for closing of the bathhouses seems to be this: they (at a minimum) facilitate and perhaps even cause disease, especially AIDS, and, therefore, should be closed as a menace to the public health.

My question is this: If it is to be public policy to employ governmental coercion over the potential link between bathhouses and disease, why doesn't the Department of Public Health immediately seek legislation to employ the coercive power of the City/County to utterly outlaw public smoking, a proven, not hypothetical health problem?

Ernie Lazar
San Francisco

RE: LittleBrain

★ Whether or not Mr. Littlejohn is actually on the paid staff of Mr. Deukmejian or H. L. Richardson is a moot point — but if he isn't, he's missing a great financial opportunity. I'm sure both these gentlemen are applauding. Our community was united over AB-1, and was in danger of getting somewhere; Littlejohn's ridiculous phony "issue" has splintered us nicely into feuding factions, incapable of anything but name-calling — while AB-1 is forgotten. It, and the Duke's veto, must not be forgotten — and we cannot allow ourselves the privilege of being fractured. "Divide and Conquer" is still a valid strategy, and is being used against us very effectively.

The rally Sunday night was a good idea — but we don't get anywhere by booing Harry Britt.

Scott O'Hara
San Francisco

B.A.R.

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LETTERS

To Close or Not to Close

★ Liberal, Democratic Fascism is being practiced by our local politicians in the issue of AIDS contagion. There is not one shred of significant statistically reliable and valid evidence as to how or where AIDS is spread throughout the gay community upon which to base the closing of the baths and backrooms. Hence, we can only assume that any action to this effect would be for political reasons, not medical. We are being subjected to the hysteria of politicians who want to "do something" about a condition of which they know nothing. Dr. Silverman, our rational director of public health, is being pressured to be the medical monkey who pulls the political chestnuts out of the AIDS conflagration. His lack of support from the mayor suggests that Feinstein must believe that a coalition with the red-neck, fundamentalist Christians is going to make her irresistible as a candidate for the Vice Presidency.

The political ploy that this action is being requested and supported by "gay leaders" once again raises the issue as to just where we are being "led." Logically, if we save lives by closing the baths and backrooms, then we can save even more lives by prohibiting any sexual contact between or among gay men. Is this what we are prepared to accept? I doubt that the majority of us is going to follow gay or straight politicians, with paternalistic or maternalistic pretensions, who would sell out our gay rights for a few scraps from the political platter.

We cannot isolate a political issue. AIDS cannot be separated from individual freedom. It may be that AIDS is the price that we have to pay now for sexual rights. As an individual and a community, we are seriously weakened if we allow others to determine our rights for us.

It is by facing individual determinations that we become strong. Based upon the facts available, every man must make his own decisions and accept the consequences, else we are not men.

Martin F. Stow
San Francisco

No Frills

★ Re. Bathhouse closure. Burn down the Mission if you want to stay alive: Elton John, 1976.

Pat Bielucki
San Francisco

Closing Logic

★ The proposed initiative to outlaw sex in gay bathhouses has as much logic as outlawing eating steaks in steakhouses — the March 26 issue of *Time* magazine documents that heart disease is caused by eating foods high in fat and cholesterol, and heart disease kills more San Franciscans than AIDS does.

Richard Winger
San Francisco

Bathhouse Just the Beginning

★ I have been following, as I am sure every reasonably intelligent gay man and woman has, the AIDS crisis since it first surfaced three years ago. I was made aware of this terrible crisis by the death of a very dear friend from the city of Atlanta, Georgia in early 1982 and I have watched helplessly as two more friends passed away and a fourth lies dying in a San Francisco hospital today.

I am very shocked that a fellow gay (brother) could even suggest a measure as "closing all gay bathhouses" by voter ballot. Where does he get off!!!! To even begin to imagine that this dreaded idea would simply stop at the "closing of 14 bathhouses in the greater San Francisco area, shows that Mr. Littlejohn, hasn't done his research into the late demands of such people as Anita Bryant, and Jerry Falwell who, if this idea gets support, will have more than ample ammunition to begin a "snowballing" chain-reaction, that would be more devastating to all gay citizens coast-to-coast, than the AIDS crisis itself.

To put it in short, first the baths, then the bars, then the parks, then the villages and before we all know it we will all be adorned with a large red scarlet letter and NAZI American will have been born.

Safe bathhouse sex can be accomplished through education, not through the closing of them. If we allow government now to begin to make moral judgemental laws we will be handing to every anti-gay American a signed license for "open hunting season" on every gay human being the world over. Is it not enough to be living in the shadow of AIDS without worrying about our safety on the streets. So San Franciscans, yes we need more research funds, and gay leaders to need to stop dragging their feet, but if Mr. Littlejohn would simply look around he would see that the bathhouses are doing everything humanly possible to prevent the spread of AIDS. We must work together to educate not to destroy.

This measure would only open up many a long sealed "can of worms" and set us back to a time of no rights at all. THINK ABOUT IT . . . PLEASE!!!

Alan Grant
San Francisco

More Jobs Lost

★ Hundreds of Gay men have already lost their jobs because of the bankruptcies and staff cutbacks caused by the AIDS hysteria. Many have been reduced to destitution and homelessness.

Larry Littlejohn's proposal to forbid sex in bathhouses will close them, placing hundreds more out of work. And it will be more than just bathhouse employees that lose their jobs. Restaurants, bars and other Gay firms thrive on customers who stop by on their way to or from the baths, and many out of town visitors won't come to San Francisco if the baths are closed. Even Gay newspapers will lose advertising revenues, and some of the marginal ones may fold.

The sex drive is too powerful to be thwarted by laws. Closing the baths will not reduce the amount of activities, it will simply shift it to other places. The taxpayers will have to pay for beefing up the toilet and bush police, as well as for the increased welfare costs.

Rev. Donald Jackson
San Francisco

Who Are the Signers?

★ Considering the seriousness of a situation where certain citizens of civil society have petitioned the authorities to deny the civil rights of other citizens in this society, I would like to ask you to use your journalistic influence to make the following information public.

(1) The full text of the petition presented to Silverman requesting him to close the baths. (2) The name of each person who signed this petition. (3) The name of any gay organization to which each of these people belong, the position they occupy within this organization, and the address and phone number where they can be reached at this organization. (4) The name, address and phone number of any business or professional practice owned or operated by any of these people.

This situation is clearly a case where certain people have employed their political, professional or business influence in an attempt to interfere in the private activities of other people. In this situation, these people have clearly forfeited the right to privacy in their political, professional or business activities. Furthermore, by their actions, these people have declared themselves to be representatives of gay men, and they have declared themselves to be competent to handle the civil affairs of gay men. In this situation, gay men have the right to know who their representatives are, and gay men have the right to acquaint themselves with how these representatives handle their own civil affairs.

We all know who Britt is. Recently, we were rudely forced to find out who Littlejohn is. But according to an article in the *Chronicle* on March 30, the petition to Silverman was signed by "50 gay businessmen, physicians and other political leaders." Littlejohn would have needed the signatures of thousands of heterosexual christians to present his petition. Britt only needed the signatures of fifty faggots. Faggots have the right to know who these faggots are.

Jim Speck
San Francisco

The Next Closures

★ When I was in the Castro Theatre I saw Gays holding hands and kissing, just like they do at the bathhouse. Now if we are going to sign a stop sex petition, we must include all of the places one may be tempted by sex.

1. We must close all movie theaters that are frequented by Gays. That is the only way we can make the city a safe place for Gays to live. The same thing goes on in the Gay bars. When two men leave a bar, they don't go to a bathhouse. They go to one or the other's house. If we didn't have Gay bars these people would not meet and be tempted by sex.

2. We must close all bars that are frequented by Gays. That is the only way we can make the city a safe place for Gays to live.

3. Most dangerous of all are the restaurants. Anyone who has ever been on an infection control committee knows the danger. We must close all restaurants that are frequented by Gays. That is the only way we can make the city a safe place for Gays to live.

Please have Larry send me several petitions, and tell him to mark the envelope rush. The paper holder next to my toilet is almost empty.

My 2 Cents Worth

Courageous Sellouts

★ Larry Littlejohn is a courageous man to risk scorn, ridicule, peer pressure and possible ostracism for fighting to give up the rights he once helped us win. Our worst enemies didn't have the courage to do what this "friend" has done.


Of course Gov. Deukmejian was courageous to veto AB-1, Eddie Murphy was courageous to tell us to kiss his ass, Dan White was courageous to shoot George Moscone and Harvey Milk . . . Need I go on?

I haven't been to the baths in a year and a half because of the perceived danger of AIDS, but I'm glad they're there for those who still choose to patronize them; and I'd like them to still be there when we learn to prevent and/or cure AIDS. But I fear they won't be.

Having sown the wind we will reap the whirlwind with further restrictions of our freedom. If the baths can be closed, so can other Gay meeting places; and if in San Francisco, then anywhere. The police will have a mandate to curb our sexual activity "for our own good," and that mandate will have started within our own community.

Welcome, Larry Littlejohn, to the Homophobes' Hall of Fame!

Steve Warren
San Francisco



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VIEWPOINT

(Continued from previous page)

ple. They got only seven or eight to sign on, while five or six jumped ship once they realized the horror of their collective folly. Those who — as far as we can tell — bailed out were Dr. Robert Bolan, Dr. Rick Andrews, Cleve Jones, and Dennis Collins. This last group is being name-called by both sides.

The people of the community were quick to see what was being traded off, and have responded in anger and consternation. This office has received more mail on this issue than any other. Not one letter backed the collaborators.

The sad part is that like Marshal Petain in 1940 they think they are solving the problem. In a way they are, for the horror will subside for a spell. The price is but a word. Liberty.

Paul Lorch



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LETTERS

Shilts Sellout

★ Contrary to popular belief, the name Randy Shilts is not an anagram for Warren Hinkle — their coverage of gay concerns just seems similar. By manufacturing an AIDS/gay bathhouse "crisis" last week, an issue apparently dear to his objective heart, Shilts proves that power politics is still alive and well and all gussied-up in journalistic drag at the Chronicle.

Speaking of drag, when does Shilts start wearing an eyepatch to go with his blue-nose morality — you know: "Close the bathhouses, stop AIDS," or is it, "Bring back prohibition, prevent alcoholism?" It's so hard to get things straight these days; I'm surprised Shilts is having a go at it.

Randy A. Worden
San Francisco

An Angry Gay

★ On May 28th in the *Chronicle* I read the single most outrageous alarming, and vulgar political news story in my 36 years of life. The article recounted the efforts and objectives of Mr. Littlejohn and his supporters to place a proposition on the municipal ballot that would eliminate all forms of lawful sexual activity in San Francisco's bathhouses.

I found it outrageous due to its illumination of yet another misdirected tortured endeavor by the world's Alice-in-Wonderland "do-gooders" to force other people to behave in a manner deemed to be "for their own good" as decided by these self-appointed arbiters of personal behavior.

And I found it truly vulgar because of its source of origin. Being conceived by a man that I could have praised and revered for his prior efforts to make my life as a Gay a better world was more than I could stomach.

The political reality, boys and girls, is that we stand alone when it comes to caring for and protecting ourselves. Gay is different! To most, Gay is just plain bad. The respected Marxist professor, Dr. Herbert Marcuse (certainly no patron saint of mine) stated it best when he wrote "Homosexuals by their very existence in society are the world's true revolutionaries." Revolutionaries are not greedy loved.

If, as a community, we've decided to give the Littlejohns "Uncle Toms" power to begin the process of telling us where, when, with whom, and how to have sex, then we are a community composed of fools, morons and masochists. And if that's the case, then I would just as soon accelerate this inevitable process. Let's just issue the pink triangles and get this liberation bullshit over once and for all.

Burney Allgood
San Francisco

The Changes at the Baths

★ My lover and I go to the baths together when we want an atmosphere we can't get in our bedroom. Also, anyone who has been to a bathhouse recently will tell you that the rules have changed since AIDS. There is a lot less exchange of body fluids these days.

Larry Littlejohn's proposal to prohibit sex in bathhouses is unnecessary, unfair and anti-gay. I'm sure he will get a lot of support from the right-wing bigots. We have fought long and hard to get rid of the oppressive laws that made gay love a crime. Now, we have to fight other gay people who would throw all of our gains away in a moment of hysteria.

There is much discussion in the medical community these days about establishing a "leper-community" for AIDS patients. One doctor is calling for a law that would enable authorities to isolate anyone diagnosed with AIDS, against their will.

With people like Larry Littlejohn within the gay community, I have no doubt that they will succeed.

Robert Starkey
San Francisco

All I Need Is Love

★ I've been having this frightening nightmare lately. It goes like this:

The Lesbian, Gay community has finally been liberated from all that rotten dirty separatist recreational sex, and the evils of sexual preference have been confined to the privacy of one's bedroom (with the lights off and shades drawn). We now spend most of our recreational time together — sexless beings of childish delight, happily skipping through endless fields of clover, gaily throwing flowers at each other. Or playing endless games of non-sexist volleyball — without the ball, of course — so as not to offend the losers with the stench of victory or the agony of defeat.

All the baths have been converted into Lesbian, Gay town and country community centers where proper attitude classes are held to help us keep our minds off sex. The bars (selling cherry soda only) are now equal opportunity Ping Pong parlors without the ball, for who needs balls in a sexless community.

Then I wake up in a cold sweat and with a tremendous erection. Now, don't tell me all I need is love!

John Di Donna
San Francisco

P.S. Once gay bathhouses have been closed, they will never again be reopened.

Close Down the Convention

★ The reason the city wants to close the bathhouses is to make San Francisco "respectable" for the Democratic Convention.

I have a simple proposal:

If they close down the bathhouses, we close down the Democratic Convention!

A Wavering Democrat

Bath Closures

★ It's about time gay leaders took some serious action to help curb the spread of AIDS.

Sex club owners have exploited the gay community for too long; peddling degradation, disease and death under the facade of sexual liberation.

As a community we have a right to insist on businesses which enhance our lives, and an obligation to say no to businesses which which degrade and destroy our lives.

D. Owen
San Francisco

Traitors in Our Midst

★ While Larry Littlejohn was down at City Hall he would have done well, as it would best suit his intentions, to file for a new name most emblematic of his self-declared new role of "leadership." I suggest Judas Littlejohn or Lazydick Arnold, except that I believe Quisling Littlejohn most forcefully describes what damage his little scheme has in store for us all.

I always knew that if it ever came to purification, safe-sex training, or sexual remodeling camps, the ones who will lead the way, as always, will be traitors in our midst.

Spinstar
San Francisco

Selling Out

★ So the homophobes and the gay politicians have climbed into bed together. Strange bedfellows, indeed. With the baths closed, this group of previously well-contained high risk gays will migrate to places where people who might have escaped exposure will now have to worry about every person they meet.

After, all San Francisco will be telling the nation "We've found the cure for AIDS. Prohibit gay sex." While you're at it, gay politicians, why not repeal the consenting adults legislation. Queer bashing and morals arrests will be making a comeback.

One small step for gay politicians. One giant step backward for gays.

Stefan Amiel-Rafael
San Francisco

Opening the Floodgates

★ Regarding your article about prohibiting sex in private bathhouses (3/28/84).

I am frightened and angered that seemingly informed people could tolerate and even initiate a move to abridge the personal freedoms of a group of citizens. Even in times of "terrible epidemic" the incursion of government into the private sexual activities of consenting adults is intolerable.

What I find even more intolerable is the *Chronicle's* use of biased reporting and the presentation of one reporter's opinions as news in this, and other articles on the subject by Mr. Shilts. If the *Chronicle* wishes to make a stand on this issue it should do so on the editorial page as is appropriate.

The ordinance proposed by Mr. Littlejohn is a dangerous piece of legislation. It goes far beyond being only "bothersome." It sets a precedent of prohibiting sexual activity between consenting adults in private bathhouses, all in the name of public health and safety. But consider what might be prohibited next, "all in the name of public health and safety." This ordinance would leave the gay community open to and virtually defenseless from attacks from all sides, "all in the name of public health and safety."

James Vanoni
San Francisco

Bath Closings

★ Apparently a 20-year veteran of Gay rights efforts has forgotten why the baths exist. They provide a safe, non-public, legal place for Gay men to meet, and possibly have sex. Even those doctors whose pet theory is that AIDS is sexually transmitted have said "it's not WHERE you do it, it's WHAT you do."

I applaud Dr. Silverman's voice of reason and sensitivity in the face of hysteria and desperation. After counseling people with AIDS on a volunteer basis for over a year, and having a dear friend die of AIDS as I held him, I am not lacking in concern over stopping AIDS. I do not foresee the ballot effort affecting AIDS statistics. It will give the homophobes incentive to attempt to close any place where Gay men meet with the possible end result of their having sex.

The pitifully small amount of research done on the cause of AIDS points to sexual transmissibility more than other theories. Even if that guess is accurate, closing the baths is not the answer to reducing the horrendous AIDS statistics. Why not create an alternative to the bars (for non-drinkers) and the allegedly dangerous baths? Gay men are going to continue to meet, with the possibility of having sex. Oh — that's right, that sort of creative effort would require much more energy than signature gathering. It would seem that efforts to get our government to do its job in finding a cause and cure for AIDS has been given up as too challenging.

James Andrew Nicholas
San Francisco

LETTERS

A Doctor Looks at Littlejohn

* Long have gays prayed, "Oh, Lord! Deliver us from our deliverers!" Our prayers have generally been required on account of officious, offensive, straight, street-corner types who rant, rail, and make public nuisances and idiots of themselves. Ah, but *now*, one Larry Littlejohn has proven that it is not only selected straights who are determined to "save" us in one way or another. Littlejohn's proposed drive to place on the November ballot a measure banning sexual activity in gay bathhouses just may be the most naive bit of 100% idiocy to cross a gay man's littlemind.

There seems little chance that Littlejohn can possibly fail in getting the requisite 7,332 signatures — they could be gathered in minutes in the Mission, and the Archbishop will be delighted to help. There seems little chance thereafter that the measure will fail to pass in November. Just suppose, then, that The AIDS Answer crops up in December. If Littlejohn thinks that the voters will repeal this bit of pernicious legislation the next time there's an opportunity, he is either more naive than would seem humanly possible or he is as great a Puritan as our most vicious and hate-filled oppressors. In which case, perhaps his next bright idea will require the stationing, 24 hours a day, of a cop in every bedroom in the city occupied by persons of the same sex.

Gays will engage in sex, no matter what. Is it not better that we "not scare the horses" and that we have access to soap and hot water? As a physician, I certainly do not recommend indiscriminate, "promiscuous exchanging of bodily fluids": current knowledge of the probable means of AIDS transmission seems strongly to indicate that such activity is dangerous. But those gays who have opted to ignore that off-repeated advice will find ways and places to do so.

As a public health measure, Littlejohn's proposal is absolutely certain to fail. As a springboard to even greater discrimination and oppression, it will be a resounding success.

C. W. Morrison, M.D.
San Francisco

Gay Homophobia

* Homophobia has always come primarily from gays filled with self-hatred. I was fired from a job by a closet gay man once because I was out front. Straight people who are happy don't care what we do.

So now we have this homophobic slime seeping out of our own community in the persons of Larry Littlejohn and Randy Shilts. Their sickness is being spread to the straight community, most of whom would never consider closing the bathhouses.

We must let it be known that these homophobic pigs within our own community will not be tolerated. People like these are destructive cancers eating away at our freedom from within. They are more destructive than AIDS or Jerry Falwell. When you see them on the street tell them to get out of town. We'd all be a lot better off without them.

Victor Galotti
San Francisco

Leave People Alone

* Though disagreeing with his approach, I cannot fault the sincere effort, nor the inherent integrity, of Larry Littlejohn regarding his desire, and rationale, to control and eliminate a (probable) source of AIDS, (B.A.R. 29 Mar 84).

My laissez-faire conservatism, coupled with the belief that an educated people should be "prudently self-policing," with as little governmental interference as possible, compel me to oppose any regulatory legislation, particularly one which, *en se*, is selective. However, Larry — together I might add with people as are found in both B.A.R. and Shanti — compel awareness, dialogue, education, research, and, eventually an end to this damnable plague.

Thomas M. Edwards
San Francisco

Bathhouses NOT the Issue!

* The move by Littlejohn to circulate petitions to close bathhouses is an extremely serious mistake. A monster will be unleashed that cannot be recalled. This makes anything Rev. Ray did "in the best interest of the community" look pale by comparison.

Sexual activity cannot be eliminated by legislation. Education is the only viable answer. We are adults and must make our own decisions about sex.

The bathhouses are *not* the issue! How will you stop sex in parks, alleys, and private homes? Should we hire police to go door to door arresting gay men for having sex?

You are putting a gay community issue into the hands of the straight community to decide. They will close the bathhouses, but for very different reasons. They would like to eliminate all gay sex.

How long after the measure passes will it take a straight demagogue to realize they could put a similar measure on the ballot to close gay bars?

Many gay men have gross misunderstandings about bathhouses. Those who have not been there, and subscribe to the stereotypes are the same that want to close bathhouses.

Although I have not been for three years, when I did go I only had one partner per visit, never caught anything (wish I could say the same of people I met in bars), and found meeting people easier than cutting through layers of attitude, games, and images in the bars.

Our biggest problem is the way we criticize each other because we express ourselves differently. We criticize drag, leather, preppies, twinkies, and Castroids. We must learn to respect each other and realize there are many viable ways to live the gay lifestyle.

We "should" all agree to reduce indiscriminate sex but we can't force others to accept that view. We must educate ourselves.

If we respect each other's differences and stand together as a community to solve our problems, we won't have to turn them over to the straight community for solutions. Their solutions would eliminate us altogether.

Greg L. Pennington
San Francisco

From the Front Lines

* I find it very difficult to read the paper lately without going into total rage at the "Uncle Toms" within our community.

In my (admittedly personal) opinion, this includes those assholes like Larry Littlejohn and "Just Plain Jim."

Larry Littlejohn is purely a traitor to the cause of Gay Rights who wants to undo all that hundreds of thousands of Gay people have fought for in the last several decades, and the less said about him, the better.

However, there are far too many hypocrites of the ilk of "Just Plain Jim," who need to be addressed by those of us in the community who have a higher regard for Gay rights. The queens, leather queens, "sissys," and dykes that he rails against have been in the forefront of the "Gay liberation struggle" since the first shots were fired at the Stonewall in New York City. Where in the hell were you when the "queens" were getting their asses kicked in the streets; hiding at home and sucking dick in your closet? If we waited for you faggots from the Sunset with your two car garages and 3 piece business suits to start the fight for OUR liberation, we would have to wait for a long goddamned time wouldn't we?

Well, I wear my leather jacket and earring (even to work at a rather respectable job outside the city). I've paid my dues in the struggle for Gay liberation, but realize that the fight is by no means over until everyone is free.

And let Middle America see what freedom is like (since they have so little of it in their everyday lives). Maybe it will inspire them to join the cause of freedom (some of them? One of them?) and we will be able to spread freedom all over this great (but not yet free) country of ours.

From the front lines,
Richard Brower
San Francisco

State Power

* Out of the bars . . . into the street! Out of the bathhouses . . . into the courts!

AIDS is not the issue, but rather the excuse to overturn at least 20 years of civil rights progress for Gays and Lesbians. The facts don't support the City's reasons for closing our private clubs.

What's at stake here is the mayor's image of her city come convention time. And a public health official is attempting to salvage his career. We are already witnessing on our streets the excessive use of police power to stifle individual rights. In Germany, the next step was to exercise police power against the rights of free enterprise.

For me, my right to be personally free is being trampled on in the rush to save us from ourselves. NEVER AGAIN! NEVER AGAIN!

Bob Smith
San Francisco

How We Are Viewed

* So the governor had the nerve to do something that you people oppose? Well, isn't that too bad! My goodness gracious, your readers are so darn mad! Too bad! You gay boys voted down proposition 13, you voted down proposition 8, the victim's bill of rights, and goodness knows, you are always complaining about being victims, you turned down the gun control bill (perhaps you are afraid of loud noises), you vote the communist-sympathizer line; you have Jane Fonda for your speaker at your rallies and you mourn the death of a half-man, failure Harvey Milk and try to make a hero out of someone who was a two-bit loser.

You denounce the family, you encourage sperm-bank insemination so that a child is born to live in a two-woman family without considering the consequences. You want to overturn the country and install a new social order with brain response replaced by penile stimulation.

Your own gay newspapers have stories about palimony suits, parental rights for absentee gay parents, sex ads offering all sorts of sexual fulfillment in spite of AIDS. You continue your sex practices and then want the public to pay your way for a cure for your own actions.

You are right, however, when you attack the bible thumpers. They are confused when they rely on God to represent their case. All they need to do is expose your seamy lifestyle and you do that job very well. The public is only partially aware of what gay life is really like. Your readers say, "Puke on the Duke." Take a second look. The Duke puked on you.

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San Francisco

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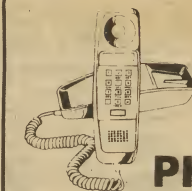
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Bathhouses

(Continued from page 1)

getting that support and allegedly only 16 names were obtained with three doctors and two Gay activists on the list later withdrawing their names. According to Carole Migden, president of the Milk Democrats and one of those soliciting names, the list has been withdrawn and not released to the public.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Gay activists Paul Boneberg and Hank Wilson invited Silverman to a community forum on AIDS and the baths at Valencia Rose, a Gay nightclub. He agreed and by word-of-mouth 100 attended, including considerable news media. The two-hour rap session was between Silverman and a large cross-section of the Lesbian/Gay leadership. Most speakers called for the baths to stay open, and the crowd reaction appeared to indicate support for that viewpoint.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Silverman called an 11 a.m. press conference, and the word was out that he was going to close the baths "and other sex-related businesses." He arrived an hour late and told the 40 media people present that there were still "facets, both medical and legal" to explore and that he would not have another statement for "a week or so."

Mayor Feinstein held a meeting in her office just before Silverman spoke with several city officials. Included were Supervisor Harry Britt, Dr. Conant, and Police Chief Cornelius Murphy. Silverman later told the media that the postponement on a decision was his idea alone.

All of this was followed by more meetings. Bath owners had several meetings to determine policy. There was another general community forum last night. Gay physicians met with Silverman to review available information. A group of physicians met to develop health guidelines for the bath owners. Rap sessions continued across town, and many were writing to Silverman and the Gay press. The general tone of all this activity appeared to be in the direction of keeping the baths and sex-related businesses open, unless there was compelling medical evidence that they were a medical hazard.

MANY QUESTIONS

Silverman, city officials, Gay physicians, activists, the Gay community, and City Attorney George Agnost were all seeking answers to endless questions.

What statistical proof is there sexual activity in steam baths and AIDS are directly related?

Would bath closure halt the bath sexual activity or only move it into public places such as alleys and parks?

Would the 6 out of 14 steam baths that are considered "straight" also be closed?

Does state law concerning sexual conduct pre-empt the city's attempt to regulate sexual conduct?

BATH CONDUCT

This week word surfaced that lights have been turned up in some San Francisco bath houses and both prophylactics and literature about "safe sex" made more available. How this will affect a business that is widely known to be frequented by people who like basic sex, some more than once in an evening, is yet to be determined. It is no secret that bath attendance has been down since the well-publicized advent of AIDS.

Sexual conduct in baths is considered private conduct in San Francisco by a general

policy of the District Attorney. Sexual activity between consenting adults is legal under state law. It has been years since a person has been arrested in a bath here for sexual activity.

"We believe," the spokesperson for the Northern California Baths Association pleads, "that our solutions are far more productive in protecting the health of people than the quick, short-sighted proposal of closing the baths. That includes providing 'safe-sex' literature, developing video tapes on sexual conduct, and distributing condoms."

The articulate baths' spokesperson on television for the past week was Sal Accardi, owner of the Watergarden in San Jose. He insists, "We will continue to be part of the solution. Baths do not cause disease. You do not get AIDS from touching a door-knob. The fact is we are talking about sexual activity, and the baths is the perfect place to talk to the people that we need to deal with."

Accardi also bluntly states that the baths will be seeking legal actions filed by bath owners if their businesses are ordered closed. He is talking about "due process, constitutional protection of privacy, and the civil rights of millions of people across the country."

If there is an attempt to close "sex-related" businesses, it is questionable what the response would be. They have business licenses but are not directly under the police and health departments. These businesses are not organized into an association and their owners barely know one another. When this controversy arose, one "membership club" owner said he would "fight them in the courts," while another left town to visit his mother for a week after stating, "If they come up with some new regulations or such, I will just change things around."

SILVERMAN - HIS DECISION?

Public Health Director Silverman emphatically denies that he is being influenced by any politicians in regards to the AIDS crisis. However, Mayor Dianne Feinstein is reportedly favoring the closure of the baths in private conversations and she is joined by Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas in that conclusion. She has lobbied Gay personalities on the issue. The president of the Board of Supervisors, Wendy Nelder, stated, "There is no question in my mind that it would be better if they were closed."

Boas, who is Silverman's official superior, recently put Silverman in the spotlight when he publicly accused him of mismanaging the operation of city hospital facilities. He placed his own administrator over the hospitals. Speculation is that Silverman is once again feeling Boas breathing down his neck, urging closure of the baths. Publicly, Silverman continues to insist that any decision he makes will be based strictly on health matters.

Hank Wilson, popular Gay health advocate, has worked with Silverman for several years on a variety of issues and respects him. "He is a fair and sensitive person," Wilson relates, "who has always taken a personal interest in our concerns. Silverman said last week that he would have closed the baths 12 months ago if he had bent to political pressure. He does not want to close the baths and lose contact with high risk people."

MEDIA COVERAGE

Outsiders might conclude from news coverage of the AIDS/Steam Bath controversy that the central focus of a Gay male's sex life is at the tubs. The

truth being that relatively few Gay males patronize these businesses on any regular basis. Some speculate that 75% of the Gay male population rarely go to a steam bath. The media image created was to the contrary.

While television and print media appeared to be balanced, there was increased criticism within the Gay community of the coverage by Gay reporter Randy Shilts with the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Increasingly, activists were openly calling Shilts prejudicial in his bath house articles.

The only news report that some Gay viewers thought was homophobic was on KRON-TV. In a segment, reporter Wayne Freedman told viewers he was going to show them a steam bath — Jaguar Bookstore, which has a private club. A frightened clerk was suddenly confronted with a "60 Minutes" confrontation and asked, "Do you think this is fair?" The scene then moved to Castro Street where activist Spinstar was handing out flyers. The reporter asked, "Don't you have anything better to do on a Friday night?"

The *San Francisco Examiner* and *San Francisco Progress* attempted to apply pressure on Silverman with editorials calling for closure. The *Examiner* called for bath house closure as a way of combatting AIDS: "We think The City has delayed too long in this life-and-death matter and that the proper course is clear . . . It is time to try this kind of quarantine; if it saves even a single life, it will be justified. Dr. Silverman should order a quarantine now, and he should be given sufficient power to enforce it."

COMMUNITY REACTION

A small demonstration against baths closure was held Sunday night on Castro Street. The affair was poorly attended due to a meager promotional effort.

Several Lesbian/Gay organizations began to react quickly, in an attempt to influence Silverman: Both local Metropolitan Community Church ministers and 17 other activists signed a statement urging bath house owners to make changes and calling for the Gay community to monitor such changes. Ed Powers, Acting Executive Director of the local AIDS Foundation, pleaded that it is not where people are having sex but how they are having sex that is important.

"The closure of such establishments," the National Gay Task Force urged, would be "largely a symbolic gesture that would provide a false sense of security that the AIDS epidemic has somehow been contained."

The Golden Gate Business Association announced that this was "the most crucial issue to face us in the history of the Gay liberation movement" and stressed "there must be compelling evidence that there is no need for the Littlejohn initiative or the closure."

Twenty activists met to set up a town hall meeting and issued a statement that urged that communal sex rooms at steam baths either be closed or converted to other purposes. The bathowners associations said they would "cooperate fully with legitimate scientific and humanitarian efforts to disseminate objective information about AIDS."

Larry Littlejohn, virtually forgotten in the scramble for news about Silverman's decision, let it be known that he was elated that people were talking about AIDS and that the steam baths were making some changes. He would not say if he would withdraw his petition effort. ■

G. Mendenhall

To the Gay Community:

This is Deadly Serious:

Each Day in San Francisco
Another Gay Brother
Comes Down with AIDS.
The Rate is Climbing, with
No Cure in Sight.

Our Sexual Practices Must Change:

In Our Bathhouses,
In Our Sex Clubs,
In Our Bedrooms . . .
Everywhere.

Learn The Facts About Safe Sex:

No Rectal Sex.
No Exchange of Semen, Blood,
Urine or Feces.

There is No Gay Freedom If You're Dead!

Let's Help Each Other to Change and Survive.



BAY AREA PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Close the Baths?

(Continued from page 2)

success of the movement. The movement is based on being Gay and that this will not preclude you from being what you want to be in your life.



Ron Huberman - in favor

Ron Huberman, Milk Democratic Club: The Littlejohn initiative would have got the signatures and passed in November. That is why I supported Dr. Conant's reasoning that this was a medical emergency so they would be closed now. One thing I learned in the fight to save the Jaguar Bookstore was that it is very difficult against homophobes and the general public to defend bathhouse-type operations. The Littlejohn initiative would have resulted in the revocation of bathhouse licenses.

Diane Christensen, Director, Community United Against Violence: The incidence of AIDS would not be noticeably decreased by the closing of the baths. High risk people would use public parks. The baths were set up to provide a private setting for this activity. Closing them would only make public sex a great criminal justice problem and not solve the problem of AIDS.

Matt Coles, activist/attorney: I recently changed my mind and am now supportive of Silverman closing the baths. I do so reluc-

tantly because I think such an act would be unconstitutional and that it would not do anything to solve the problem. It would be easier to undo the Silverman temporarily closing than it would to have the Littlejohn initiative, which would become a permanent ordinance. I believe the Littlejohn measure would be on the ballot in November and would pass. Even if the Littlejohn proposition was ruled unconstitutional, it would take another initiative in order to remove it.

Pat Norman, Lesbian/Gay Aide to Silverman: (States that because of her position with the city, she cannot comment.)

Gregg Day, Toklas Democrats official: Closure would be window-dressing and not save lives. It could increase the incidence of AIDS, as high risk people would no longer be in a centralized place where they can be talked with. Closing them down as a reaction to the Littlejohn initiative is no way to defeat that. Everyone is talking about AIDS now and that is good. Now if the bathhouses will make some positive reforms, then something very positive can come of this.



Gregg Day - opposed

Jack Fertig, Sister Boom Boom: Gay men who continue to pursue promiscuous and dangerous sex practices would only take their search to places that lack privacy, hygiene facilities, and educational opportunities which the baths provide. Thus Littlejohn's efforts are grossly counterproductive. . . . However, I am personally happy to see a bathhouse close from a

lack of business, which indicates that Gay men are being more careful in their sexual activities.

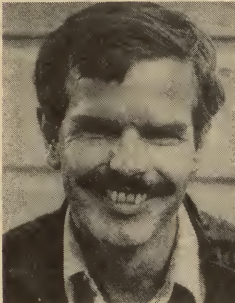
Hank Wilson, medical/rights advocate: Silverman has been great. He is sensitive to our concerns and wants to remain in contact with high risk people. He has learned a great deal about Gay male sexuality. He does not want to close the baths. There is considerable respect for him in our community. . . . The bath owners are going to have to make some real changes and quickly. Some baths have been making changes — but others have not. Sex-related places need to respond in some way also.

Phyllis Lyon, past-chair, SF Human Rights Commission: Back in the '60s when Gay bars were being threatened by the police and the state Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Tavern Guild was formed and bar owners began a campaign of self-policing. Gay leaders, bath owners, and the public health department need to get together and establish dialogues and educational programs on AIDS. The way to deal with bathhouses that are not cooperative is to use pressure such as picketing and boycotting.

John Wahl, attorney and supervisory candidate: We don't appreciate having our lives, our civil liberties, made a political football because some people want the baths closed before the Democratic convention. We have to make sure that the general public understands that closing them would be a stupid move. We are also going to hold Mayor Feinstein; Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas; and the President of the Board of Supervisors, Wendy Nelder, responsible if the baths are closed.

Jack Campbell, activist and of the national Club bath chain: Our baths, in many cities, are the only place where AIDS literature and condoms are being distributed. What would be offered as an alternative to the baths would be unspeakable. We have private, hygienic facilities, and if Gay people are forced into the public areas, they will be mugged, arrested, and killed. What this is about is that the mayor wants a clean city when the Democrats come in July.

Dorr Jones, lifetime nationally recognized Gay activist: If it would help, I would favor closing the baths. This is symbolic as it stands for a long struggle for sexual freedom. Where would it stop? Does this mean that places where Gay people meet and socialize must also be closed? Will Gay sex also be made illegal? Will we return to the 1960's when Gay people had their names recorded on the street outside of Gay bars by police officers? The closure would be like giving ammunition to someone who you know is going to shoot you.



Howard Wallace - opposed

Howard Wallace, Co-chair, Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance: Those who say that people who favor keeping the baths open are insensitive to the AIDS crisis are lying. We are all concerned. We have spent decades trying to get government off our back, out of our private sex lives. There is no panacea to this problem and those who claim there is are snake oil salesmen. You cannot eliminate a person's sexuality overnight. One thing the baths provide is a central contact place to reach sexually active people. Ultimately, no matter what is done, the issue will be the consciousness and personal control over one's sexual behavior. That is the only thing that is going to work.

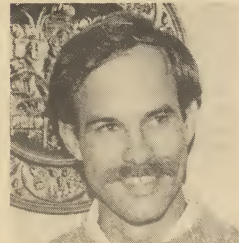
Ron Ernest, Jaguar Bookstore/Club owner: I believe the Democratic Party coming here has a lot to do with this. If they close places down, people will just go to the parks and the public johns. We run a private membership club, but I do not consider it a sex club. If people have sex here, I do not know about it. We have a clean opera-

tion. Whatever is decided, I will adjust and change the format if necessary. Right now I am just going to wait and see.

Randy Stallings, former president, Toklas Democrats: I am totally opposed to a closing. Some people will not heed the warnings whether they close the baths or not. What I fear is that the precedent of closure would have its effect. Tomorrow, the bars? Thousands of people get drunk in bars and then drive and kill people and themselves on the highways, but who supports closing every bar in the nation? You cannot protect adults from their own behavior.

Jeff Jones, Toklas Democrats: The open forum at Valencia Rose revealed that 90% of the 100 Gay people there were for keeping the baths open. I am concerned about the violation of civil liberties involved and the effect this will have across the country. Is there adequate documentation that calls for this? Silverman seemed undecided at the forum and open to more discussion on the issue.

Paul Boneberg, President, Stonewall Democrats: The Gay community should be consulted when our lives are affected by decisions. That is why I set up the public meeting at Valencia Rose when I learned what Sil-



Paul Boneberg - opposed (Photo: Rink)

verman might do. To read Randy Shilts in the *Chronicle* you would think that there was a great swell of support for closing the baths, but by the end of the Rose meeting it was evident that 90% of the 100 there were opposed to such action. At a subsequent meeting, 20 Gay community leaders asked Silverman to delay any action for two weeks and to meet with some of us.

G. Mendenhall

MCC Responds to Closings

An Open Letter to Our Community:

As pastors of the two congregations of Metropolitan Community Church in our city, we wish to express our concern about proposals to close baths and private clubs as an attempt at AIDS prevention. We feel that this would be ill-advised and unproductive, for a number of reasons:

First, there is no conclusive evidence that this measure would be effective in AIDS prevention, and there is some reason to believe that it could aggravate the problem by moving it out of potentially controllable environments.

Second, such a measure would certainly consume funds and time in implementation and enforcement, not to mention community time already being spent addressing the proposed measure itself.

Third, airing of the issue through such a measure may further inflame public panic and give tacit permission to expression of homophobic feelings in repressive legal measures and even violence.

Fourth, such a measure could reinforce within the Lesbian/Gay community a feeling of "It's their problem and couldn't happen to me," by seeming to be a major prevention of and protection against AIDS. This could seriously deflect attention from crucial self-positive, safe-sex education.

Finally, we see such a measure as the product, in some minds, of our internalized homophobia, a tendency deep in some of us to see sexuality as evil and to scapegoat non-traditional forms of sexuality, instead of spending the effort to place them in loving and safety-conscious contexts.

As Christian clergy, we are intensely concerned in establishing a context in which human justice and wholeness are encouraged. Our denomination and our local congregations are actively concerned in ministry in the AIDS crisis. We confess that much of the anti-Gay and anti-sexual damage to Western society has been perpetrated by the perverted view

of the gospel held by some Christians. Because of that, we believe that we have a special responsibility to work for the purposes of love and growth. We believe that closure of baths and private clubs would be counterproductive to those purposes, and to the ultimate eradication of AIDS.

The Reverend Michael E. England
MCC of San Francisco

The Reverend James E. Sandmire
Golden Gate MCC

Gay Doctors' Statement on the Baths

Recently, there has been some confusion in parts of the press and the public regarding the official position of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR) about sexual activity at Gay bath houses and similar establishments during the AIDS crisis.

We wish to restate our opinion that certain types of sexual practices, no matter in what location they occur, increase the risk of contracting all sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. What counts is what you do, not where you do it.

We continue to discourage unsafe sex practices in all areas, including bath houses.

We strongly favor, and request assistance for, educational programs to help reduce risks. Furthermore, we think that such efforts may be especially significant at bath houses and similar establishments.

We affirm our belief that government intervention in the sexual behavior of consenting adults should be avoided.

Most importantly, we believe that voluntary action by our community is the best method to encourage safe sex. In these difficult times, let us act with concern and responsibility for each other.

BWMT Philly Gets Busy

Philadelphia - Taking their cue from fellow members in San Francisco and New York, The local chapter of Black and White Men Together, in conjunction with other local Gay organizations, is conducting a survey of Gay bars' employment practices.

The survey, to be distributed to bar owners and managers, will ask questions about how many non-White Gay employees the bars have and also what their policy is regarding patron admissions.

Larry Frankel, coordinator of the Philly BWMT's political action committee, said that the survey would not include Lesbian bars because — as was the case in New York and San Francisco — "it would be presumptuous for a Gay men's group to study women's bars," preferring that Lesbian groups conduct such a survey.

Recently, the local chapter celebrated its third anniversary with a lavish dinner in which Mayor Wilson Goode was a featured speaker.

Goode was fulfilling a campaign promise "that I would come back here as mayor and you helped me to do that."

— Philadelphia Gay News

A GAY VIEW FROM WASHINGTON

Part III of Four Parts

Gay Issues Surface in Congressional Hearings

by Larry Bush

Reagan Administration health officials held the line on AIDS spending before two congressional committees in March, telling Congress that the proposed \$53.9 million budget for AIDS research and information is sufficient under current circumstances. Dr. Edward Brandt, the assistant secretary for health, and Margaret Heckler, Secretary of the Health and Human Services department, were the testifiers.

The view of the Administration, according to National Gay Task Force Washington director Jeff Levi, appeared to rely strongly on the assumption that one of the current research lines now being pursued would turn out to be correct. It was unclear whether sufficient funds had been budgeted to pursue a number of research avenues simultaneously, or to pursue a new lead if one should unexpectedly

develop.

Last year the Reagan Administration also based its budget request on the assumption that it would "shortly" find the avenue leading to a solution to the AIDS crisis, and was forced to ask for supplementary funding when it reached blind alleys.

The Reagan Administration's proposal, which is for the fiscal year that begins next October 1,

has been criticized by Gay groups for not specifically providing new funding for community support and education programs.

In a related development, a Reagan Administration program to provide recognition to notable volunteer efforts through an awards program has turned down the nomination of the New York-based Gay Men's Health Crisis for an award for its volunteer and support program. The group is slated to receive one of several thousand "thank you" letters for having been submitted, but was not considered for an award. No Gay organization has ever been cited for its volunteer programs, and no other programs devoted to providing services for AIDS people was submitted. The nomination was backed by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), Representative William Green (R-NY) and Governor Mario Cuomo.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) directed friendly questions to the National Gay Task Force during Senate

Judiciary Committee hearings on the nomination of Edwin Meese to be U.S. Attorney General on March 5. Kennedy's questions, which underscored NGTF's position that Meese had shown no disposition to hear civil rights concerns of Gays, was believed to be the first time that any member of the Senate Judiciary Committee had publicly taken up Gay concerns during the committee proceedings.

The testimony, presented by NGTF Washington representative Jeff Levi, was part of a growing closeness between the National Gay Task Force and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, an umbrella group of civil rights organizations that finally agreed to admit NGTF and the Gay Rights National Lobby to membership in 1982. The Leadership Conference, which also took the unusual step of opposing Meese's nomination, is closely allied with both labor union and Catholic agencies involved in civil rights issues, which has generally kept them away from "controversial" civil rights concerns such as Gay issues and abortion rights.

Levi told the Judiciary Committee that Gay concerns over

the Justice Department spanned issues from anti-Gay violence to immigration reform, as well as traditional civil rights issues of nondiscrimination. Among other concerns, Levi referred to the recent Justice Department decision not to press federal charges against Dan White for murdering San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978, and the thirty-year record of surveillance of Gay groups by the FBI.

"I urge you to call Mr. Meese back before this committee so the record will state clearly from the start what his positions on these matters are — so the Senate can know how deep a commitment to equal justice under the law Edwin Meese actually has before voting to confirm him as Attorney General," Levi said.

Kennedy was the only senator to ask questions of Levi, seeking to draw him out with an assessment that the "Gay/Lesbian community" would not be served by Meese's confirmation. In 1980, Senator Kennedy, then a presidential candidate, took the lead position in support of Gay civil rights in the Democratic Party.

POLITICS AND POKER

Mondale Wins New York; Strengthens Delegate Lead

WAYNE HILL

Former vice president Walter Mondale won a convincing victory in Tuesday's big New York primary where 252 delegates to the July San Francisco convention were chosen. Mondale, with important support of New York's powerful labor unions as well as that state's top Democratic officials, won nearly two-thirds of the state's large Jewish vote to defeat Hart overall in New York by 45% to 27%. Jesse Jackson, the third candidate in the race, trailed Hart by only 25,000 votes. Jackson, who has been unable to break into the large "White" vote in primaries to date, won the "Black" vote in Tuesday's New York primary — taking over 50% of that minority vote across the state.

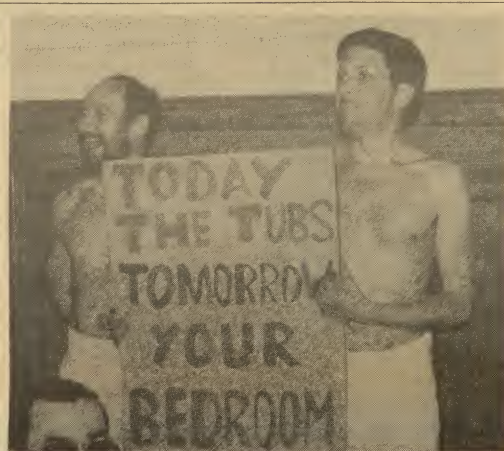
Tuesday's results weren't completely unexpected, however, since most of New York's Demo-

cratic Party apparatus was working for the former Carter vice president, and Mondale has long been popular with the powerful Jewish community there. Yet, political observers were beginning this week to say that Gary Hart is headed for trouble if he doesn't soon score in one of the more populous states. The next important big-state primary is next Tuesday, April 10, in Pennsylvania with nearly 300 delegates, and Hart was already in that state campaigning Tuesday before the votes were being counted in New York, and the Colorado senator is thought to have a better chance of winning in Pennsylvania.

Mondale, claiming his New York win had once again made him the "man to beat" for the Democratic nomination, said that his impressive win Tuesday showed that "New York was

voting to end the insane arms race" and to send someone to the White House to "put America back to work again." Hart, speaking Tuesday night from Philadelphia, took the New York results with an upper chin and predicted that "New York will love me better in November when they get to know me a little better."

Meanwhile, Jesse Jackson, who picked up 47 delegates in New York Tuesday and made the best showing so far in any of the contests, began saying that he would "make an excellent vice president," apparently starting his convention brokering a little early; however, Tuesday morning's Cable News Network news shows had a number of political analysts on their early morning news program, and to a person, all agreed that though Jackson would go into the San Francisco



Bathroom fans came au naturel to Merv Silverman's press conference. (Photo: Rink)

convention holding enough delegates to make him a person to deal with, his famed "hymie" remarks ruled out any even remote chance of being picked for the second spot.

After New York's Tuesday primary, the current delegate count, depending on whose

count you use, stands at Mondale with 864 committed delegates, Hart with 514, Jackson with 147, uncommitted at 322, and "others" already picked at 35 ("others" includes those chosen for candidates who have withdrawn). A total of 1,967 delegates is needed to gain the

(Continued on next page)

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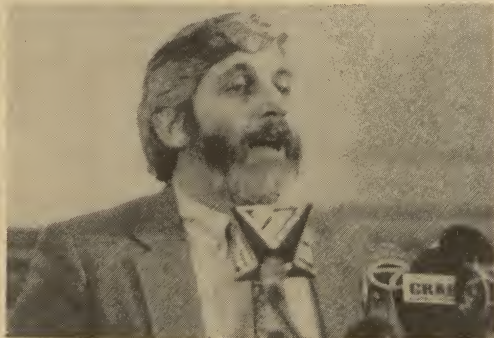
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The Press Conference That Almost Was

**Full Statement by Dr. Mervyn Silverman
Friday, March 30, 1984**



"I think since most of you know me, what I am going to say will be somewhat of a surprise and somewhat of a disappointment. Because of a number of issues, both legal and medical, not resolved at this point I am not going to be making a comment. I will not be discussing the opening or closing of the bath houses at this point. I will be back to you very shortly, probably within another week or so. There are many, many complex issues. I have to offer my apologies for moving as hastily as I did. I was unaware of a number of facets to this issue, some of which have absolutely nothing to do with medicine, some which do. I am making just this statement. I am sorry for your having to be here as long as you have and not being able to give you . . . You know me. I always try to give you as much information as possible. I have to say that that is the statement and I won't be making any other comment at this time.

"The advice is mine and I really want to make it clear — really want to make it very clear — that the action is mine and is not based on pressure from this group, that individual, anybody else. It has to do with something that is obviously very complex, that is not a simplistic issue, and one that I have to have sufficient counsel on both sides — looking at the legal and some medical aspects. I am really going to end it and not answer any questions after this. This was done by me and solely by me and not by anyone else in the city system and that is the truth. Thank you."

Silverman exited to prolonged applause from about 50 spectators in the audience.

Politics & Poker

(Continued from previous page)

nomination, and the next large contests, after next Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary, are scheduled for Ohio, where they will hold a primary next month, as well as Texas' important caucus, and then the all-important California primary in June, a state that could decide it all.

In the only other presidential contest this week — a "beauty contest" in Wisconsin that will have little bearing on the state's delegation to the July convention — Gary Hart beat Mondale by a 46% to 42% vote, with Jackson trailing poorly with 10%. The results of the Wisconsin vote Tuesday, however, are meaningless, as the actual 78 delegates to the San Francisco confab will be chosen this weekend in party caucus. All three candidates are expected to be in Wisconsin before the delegates are picked Saturday and Sunday.

★ ★ ★

Supervisor Doris Ward carried an important piece of legislation for the Black and women's communities last week. Known as the Minority Business Ordinance, the Ward legislation will go far to help both minority and women's businesses to obtain a percentage of private contracts awarded by the city (only Supervisor Kopp voted against this legislation, and I thought that Quentin's political advisors were trying to move him a little more to the left this year!).

New York City's growing Gay community was wooed openly by all three candidates in Tuesday's Demo primary, and Gay activists in NYC were "split and split again" as to their choice, according to Peter Vogel, the chair of the National Ass'n of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs. The city's two Gay newspapers were split with the *New York Native* endorsing Hart while the *Gay New York City News* went for Mondale. The four Gay Democratic clubs in NYC were also split between the candidates. Virginia Apuzzo, the executive director of the New York-based National Gay Task Force, told reporters last weekend that her organization has studied the stands on Gay issues of both Hart and Mondale and "there isn't a dime's worth of difference. They're both acceptable." Apuzzo, a member of the platform committee of the Democratic National Convention, said that 12 declared homosexual men and women were running as delegates or alternates in New York: three for Mondale, two for Jackson, one for Hart, and six who remain as Cranston delegates, who, if they win, will go to the San Francisco convention presumably as uncommitted delegates.



Alice Demos celebrate heads of local Democratic clubs at supervisor's home. (Photo: R)

If Speaker Willie Brown was not already a national celebrity, Sunday night's "60 Minutes" on CBS certainly made him one. Brown and his advisors have to be smiling after this highly positive promo-piece. • Supervisor Bill Maher recently started a job as a real estate trainee at United Bank. • Bill Kraus to New York this weekend for the opening hearing of the Democratic National Platform Committee. • Don't invite Mayor Feinstein and Wendy Nelder to the same cocktail party. Some of the mayor's aides were furious at the remarks Nelder made about Her Honor regarding the closing (or nonclosing) of the bathhouses. • As for the bathhouse issue, that is one that has divided our community like few others, but if the bathhouse owners thought that those jackasses that showed up at Merv Silverman's almost-press conference last week clad in towels helped their cause, they were in the minority (even a couple of owners told me they were embarrassed) and frankly, if those creeps were indicative of what you are likely to run into at the baths, who would want to go?

Supervisors Molinari, Renne, and Hongisto all received good receptions at Saturday night's dinner honoring Jose at the Green Room. Incidentally, Jose, who was unceremoniously uninvited from last year's Alice Toklas Demo Club's dinner, was made an honorary lifetime member of that same club at his testimonial dinner last Saturday (what a difference some bad press makes!). • In Baltimore last week a large number of Gay activists marched outside City Hall as legislation was introduced to protect homosexuals

against discrimination in jobs and housing; action by the Baltimore City Council is due soon.

Willie Brown isn't the only one thinking (or hoping) that the Democratic Convention in July becomes deadlocked and eventually turns to Ted Kennedy. Even GOP Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, who has some experience with nominations, predicted this week that neither Hart nor Mondale would lock it



Wendy Nelder wants Dianne to shut down sex.

up and bet that Kennedy would eventually emerge; meanwhile, in Washington Kennedy's aides say that the senator "considers the possibility so remote that he isn't even thinking about it."

In Chicago last week it was announced that a Mexican who was denied an immigrant visa because his wife is a transsexual will get a new hearing on his petition. The Immigration and Naturalization Service admitted that its original refusal to recognize the marriage of Patricia Michelle and Manuel Castaneda was a mistake.

Friends of supervisorial candidate Dave Wharton will hold a wine and cheese benefit for their man this Sun-

day, April 8, at 2nd Castro (\$10; 1-4 p.m., 861-5111 for info). • The federal government allotted \$1.1 million last week for research seeking a test for AIDS that would detect the disease early and permit screening to eliminate blood donations that might transmit it.

While driving down Polk Street the other day, Supervisor Jack Molinari burst into laughter upon noticing the sign on Sukker's Likkers' famous marquee. The owners of the store, friends of the supervisor, had placed a different message on their now-famous marquee: "Molinari is Not a Salami," hoping to draw attention to the fundraiser party they threw for Molinari last week. • In Manhattan Beach, Doris Tate, the mother of murdered actress Sharon Tate, says that the slaying of her daughter by the Charles Manson followers has turned her to politics and she will run for the Assembly in the 51st District as a "law and order" Democrat. • Despite assurances by organizers of the planned Lesbian/Gay march on July 15, the day before the opening of the Demo Convention, that their march will be peaceful, it is no secret that some Democratic leaders are worried that the convention here will turn into a media circus featuring gays and prostitutes; Margo St. James, head of COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics) has announced that her group will hold a press conference during the convention, and a growing number of Demo leaders are fearful that television coverage of such affairs could cost them votes and help re-elect Ronald Reagan.

W. Friday

GREATER BAY NEWS

BITCH IN HEAT

Up The River With Mary-Louise

BRIAN JONES

Mary-Louise looks for the same thing in a weekend getaway as she does in a man. She wants them hot, affordable, and with a minimum of attitude. In the case of her opening foray of the season up to the Russian River, she can say — as is so often the case after a first date: Well, honey, two out of three ain't bad.

Attitude at the River is, of course, legendary. Tom Ammi-ano, the Gay comedian, put it succinctly in a show a month ago. First Man: "Look! There's a guy drowning in the river!" Second Man, looking at his fingernails, bored: "Oh really. Is he cute?"

To answer that last question first — yes, he *must* be cute; my God, they're *all* cute; in fact, Mary-Louise has discovered you *have* to be cute or they don't let you over the Sonoma County line after April 1. All the ugly guys have to wait 'til after Labor Day to get into Guerneville. Mary-Louise only snuck through by posing, in the back seat of our pretentious LTD Crown Victoria, as Jane Wyman, a feat only made possible by the liberal doses of Lady Clairol number 52-D Black Velvet applied unsparingly — even despairingly — before leaving The City.

Well, I digress. It began late on Saturday, after Mary-Louise had spent long hours slaving her tits over a hot typewriter at the B.A.R. Goodness, the things you have to go through — or vice versa — to get a job at this rag.

So Mary-Louise and husband Hubert were indeed ready to blow this town — that is, get away — when the mercury soared past 75. They stashed their fast-passes and made eyes at the man at the rent-a-car place, thereby nabbing an LTD for the price of a Pinto. Mary-Louise likes to be able to be rammed from the rear without bursting into flames, thank you very much.

It's only an hour and 20 minutes from the bridge to the Headlands resort — I mean Highlands resort — even when you drive less than 75. And the place is charming. They put most of the towels in the bathroom, but one smaller one right by the nightstand next to the bed.

It was off to The Woods to disco The City right out of their hair. The Hexagon House, in Mary-Louise's opinion — and we're talking here about an unreconstructed Fort Lauderdale disco queen — matches or surpasses the setting of any of the

dancehalls in The City. Mary-Louise and Hubert left before midnight, married people needing their rest and all, thereby narrowly escaping what was later described as the weekend's biggest attack of attitude.

Disco diva Viola Wills was to appear at midnight, and The Woods was packed for her appearance. But the diva didn't appear. Folks who were there said no explanation was given for the show that didn't happen, and the whole thing was handled rather rudely. Management of The Woods said later Wills came down ill, and that it was the first time in three years they had canceled a show.

The happy honeymooners' own first brush with High Attitude came Sunday morning, like a cold shower. It was a cold shower. Now, at a woodsy resort packed with queeny campers — or is that campy queens? — it probably is impossible not to run out of hot water. Really, there probably isn't enough steam heat in Old Faithful to get 22 fagots through wash-rinse-condition-rinse, wash-rinse-condition-rinse, with that pause in the middle for a stanza from "Stormy Weather."

Mary-Louise mentioned her rude awakening to Management, only to be chided for speaking, without being called upon, to someone who didn't come on duty until 3 in the afternoon. Well, she was then dispatched hither and yon, from hot tub to Cabin 7 and back, to find the Proper Authority to whom problems with plumbing should be discussed. Now this was not a pretty sight. Mary-Louise was still in housecoat and duster, and her fuzzy slippers left little clouds of clay-colored smoke as she shuffled around what we had started to call The Compound.

The problem was solved after a long discourse on plumbing and pilot lights and piping and other unfathomable depths of Real-Man stuff. Mary-Louise doesn't understand any of it, because she doesn't have to.

High Attitude switched into High Gear when Mary-Louise, Hubert, and their child Tammy dropped by the River Village for Sunday Brunch. The maitre d' informed the party matter-of-factly, "The Chef had a rough night. None of the specialties are available." Well, This was a Real Problem: Half the menu was listed under "Specialties." The party made do.

And the 35-minute wait for food wasn't too boring, as Mary-



Romance on The River. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

Louise and company were kept busy devising clever tricks for trapping the waitron and convincing him to bless us with coffee for our depressingly empty cups. The food, when it arrived, was fine, but difficult to eat at first because nobody provided silverware. Just seven minutes later, this problem was solved, and the rest of the affair proceeded without incident.

A motor tour of the River valley reminded the crew why so many folks come up here: Its

stunning natural beauty. There really aren't too many places on earth that are prettier. And that evening's meal, at Little Bavaria in Guerneville, was so impeccably cooked and presented that it more than compensated for the morning's disaster.

By midnight Sunday, the happy family was ready to sit in the hot tub, chat, and prepare for an early departure Monday to return to The City. Perhaps this was the high-point of the trip but — oh, darn — we're just

about out of space for this issue. Maybe we'll get to it next time. Maybe we won't.

Two days and two nights up the river set us back only \$60 each, and that included the car. Certainly a getaway any Working Girl can afford. And it was indeed a mostly enjoyable trip. One hopes the professional hostellers and restaurateurs at the River would treat the customers more like guests and less like pests. Ah, well. See you at the River. ■



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Gay Poet Reads at Stanford

The distinguished French-American poet, critic and translator Edouard Roditi will give a reading at 8 PM, Thursday, April 12 in History Corner 205 on the Stanford campus. The event will be sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford as part of its Spring Speakers' Series.

Roditi has been active as a poet, critic and translator since 1928. Among his many volumes are *Poems for F.* (1936), *Oscar Wilde* (1947), *Poems 1928-1948* (1949), *Dialogues on Art* (1961), *Prose Poems: New Hieroglyphic Tales* (1968), *Emperor of Midnight* (1974), and *Thrice Chosen* (1981).

For more information, call the Stanford Gay and Lesbian Events Tape at 497-1488. ■

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Alameda Groups Express AIDS Concerns

by John Wetzel

Last Thursday, community groups and social service organizations in Alameda County again echoed concerns that the East Bay cities, particularly cities in southern Alameda County, lack sufficient county AIDS planning. Officials of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency listened to the concerns and then responded carefully to most charges during the county's second Community Health Forum. This time speakers were asked to pool suggestions on budget planning for 1985.

For the past six months, East Bay health officials have been warned of a potentially dramatic increase in the number of East Bay AIDS cases. Such warning has come mostly from the mostly Gay East Bay AIDS Resources Organization (EBARO). Now county officials seem to be gearing up for just such a possibility. Programs to be expanded are psycho-social support services and the distribution of accurate information about AIDS.

The latter, Gay groups testified, is severely limited in the southern part of the county, particularly in Hayward, which is described as "the largest organized Gay community outside of San Francisco in the Bay Area."

Three speakers spoke from the Maranatha Metropolitan Community Church in Hayward, and one also represented the EBARO. MCC pastor Jodi Safier appealed to the county panel. "My congregation is terrified," she said. "I have found no resources (with the county) and I don't have answers for people who come to me terrified."

County officials will work with Safier and Maranatha to coordinate efforts to make information available to the Hayward community through the MCC. Safier is amenable to such an arrangement, but would also like to include a network of other social service centers in the effort. "This is by no means exclusive," she said.

Regarding AIDS services in general, Safier said, "I don't see this as a need that is being met, but I think it is a need that exists and continues and grows at

an alarming rate. Just because the needs haven't been obvious doesn't mean they're not there."

It was after Safier's testimony that Public Health Director Carl Smith approached her with the idea of securing the MCC as an AIDS education clearinghouse. EBARO has already declined to serve as community consultant for the county in administering AIDS program services, which may have included a similar clearinghouse capacity.

Current programs in AIDS care have been put in place within the last two months, following public and private pressure maintained by EBARO. There are currently five screening locations throughout the county.

"Basically they have taken their standard STD clinics and have said, presto, you are now AIDS screening clinics," Dorothy Graham of the Alameda County Health Consortium and EBARO told Bay Area Reporter.

Apparently, the transition was slow. Graham said she contacted one of these clinics following the announcement by the county that AIDS screening would be conducted, and staff at that particular location did not know they were supposed to be conducting AIDS screening at all. Also, there had been some apprehension at the Highland Hospital clinic, and even some hostility, at the notion of screening patients for AIDS.

According to Graham, the systems are now much more organized for screening, and EBARO

is now concentrating its efforts on pushing for an AIDS specialty clinic which would provide treatment for AIDS. EBARO secretary Jim Chambers informed Smith in a March 28 letter that the county's "triggering event" of 15 patients to be cared for had been surpassed. "Based on the new criteria outlined in the (AIDS Response Plan) proposal we submit that the clinic should be opening within two weeks," the letter said in part.

Chambers' letter also called for clinical representation on a proposed advisory committee (set out in Smith's AIDS Response Plan he submitted to the state last month) and representation by people with AIDS. It also called for efforts "to educate personnel" and called for installment of an AIDS project monitor to oversee implementation of the plan.

Jim Curber testified for EBARO Thursday before the county panel, which included Carl Lester, director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, that "By June 1985 there will be a projected number of 385 cases of AIDS in Alameda County." EBARO activists agree that the county is responding to the pressure being placed on it, more than anyone expected.

"They have to be educated," Chambers said. "For example, I don't think they realized the extent to which people were going over to San Francisco for treatment."

"We want you to know that we are trying to be responsive to the needs you have expressed both in this and the former forum and we will continue to listen to your input in an effort to develop a program that at least addresses these needs," said Lester at the meeting.

The county initiated this series of health forums as a result of public outcry over a statement Lester had publicly issued assuring that Alameda County had no unmet health needs. It was at about the same time that EBARO became organized and pressed the administration for more attention and money to be paid to the AIDS epidemic. ■

Marin Lesbian and Gay Democrats Organize

Lesbians and Gay men of Marin County are getting openly involved in politics. They are forming a Lesbian/Gay Significant Interest Group within the Marin Democratic Club.

The organizers of this group say that they have long seen the need for such political activity in Marin, to serve as a voice for the Lesbian and Gay Community, as well as to support the expansion of the county's existing Gay rights legislation. Marin has an excellent record of support, as exemplified by its overwhelming vote against the Briggs initiative and Barbara Boxer's successful efforts to put Gay rights legislation on the books while she was a supervisor. During 1983, various means of politicizing the county's Lesbians and Gays were considered, with the final result being the Gay and Lesbian group SIG within the Marin Democratic Club.

Though less than two years old, the Marin Democratic Club has been successful in its first efforts at grassroots organization of Democrats according to Gay activist Alexander Diefenbach. "The general membership is progressive with an excellent record of individual support for Gay issues. Given the usual level of noninvolvement in Marin, this joining of forces appears to present a greater chance for success, especially since a majority of the members of the Marin Democratic Central Committee are also members of the Marin

Democratic Club," Diefenbach said.

Founding members see the purposes of the Gay and Lesbian group as educating the public, officials, and the Lesbian and Gay Community about relevant issues, and promoting Gay rights legislation.

Toward this end a strategy session will be held to plan the in-

volvement of the county's Lesbians and Gays in determining what issues will be focused on during 1984. This meeting entitled "Where do we go from here?" is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 PM at the First Methodist Church in San Rafael (Ross Ave. at Fourth Street).

For more information contact Diefenbach at 488-0885. ■

Pumps
 By Dag Figley

RESTROOMS

Isn't it great? They're taking sex out of the baths and putting it back into public places where it's safe?

Rhonda Love Interviewed

NEZ PAS

Ronald (Rhonda) Love has spent the last 16 of his 23 years right here in the Bay Area. Although born in Mobile, Alabama, he considers his "home state" to be Mississippi. Having been a bus driver and an airline ticket agent, he now has settled down (?) to the task of being a "411 telephone operator."

Ron's family knows of his sexual orientation — except for his baby sister. He informed his family when he was 16, and his father (being a doctor and a teacher) took the news better than his mother. She had resentment against Gays in general; couldn't accept the lifestyle and tried to "cure" Ron. Over the years she has "seen the light" and accepts Ron and loves him — except for the drag. That still bothers her, so Ron doesn't flaunt it.

Ron first went in drag about three years ago when Chuck and Carlos were Emperor and Em-

so I walked by them in the street. I sluffed it off when I realized that they were not living in the 80's!

Nez: For which titles have you run?

Ron: I ran for the first Miss Closet Ball and also for Empress V, ACIE. Although I didn't win either of them, I still think that my idea of lessening the rivalry between Oakland and Hayward is still with potential. If I could receive an elected title I think that I could ease that rivalry and strengthen the representation of ACIE. I must say that I, personally, didn't experience any of the "back stabbing and friendship splits" that accompany so many of the running competitions. During the Empress contest, Cha Cha, Johnny, and I really grew, and our friendship became stronger. I finally knew just how hard it is to "run" — there's always something to do no matter how tired I was — and

Nez: You asked to be interviewed. Why?

Ron: Girl, can we talk? I'm frightened or in awe of everyone, in certain ways. I really don't get over that fear until I really know them. But, I felt it was time that people know who I am — I've waited for over a year for this — and if I told you everything that I wanted to do, it would take the entire issue of this paper to print it all! I'm a person who is scared of AIDS but, not being promiscuous, I haven't changed my lifestyle as yet! I am a person who loves people in general. I am a good listener with a good shoulder to cry on. I feel that I am a lovable person. I like to go out and have a good time. I like to make people smile when they are not having a good time! I am a human being just like everybody else. Sometimes I am Roni and sometimes I am Rhonda, but I am always the same inside.

I would like to stay involved with ACIE and give them as much help and support as necessary to help it continue to grow. I want to see the court cruise at 35,000 feet and be well known all over the country! I feel that the court system is important because it gives Gay men who don't like drag queens something to talk about! The court system gives us activities and something to do as a group or Community that is fun and exciting. The court system keeps "them" off the street! The court system also shows the straight community that we really do care about people whether or not they are Gay or Straight. I really wish that I had the opportunity to meet Martin Luther King. I would like to know what really made him do what he did with the Civil Rights movement. Was it actually "the man upstairs" or was it just him. I would like to ask him just what more we can do today for human rights, both Black and White and Gay and Straight.



Rhonda Love

press of ACIE. Doug Odermat and Jim Weatherston persuaded him to do it — and it stuck!

Nez: Discrimination — Have you experienced it being Black (photo, which try to see!) and Gay?

Ron: I really haven't experienced any discrimination in being Black or Gay. The telephone company doesn't care about race or sexual attraction as long as you can pass the test. They certainly know that I am Black, and they do know that I am Gay; but I passed the test and do my job so I am readily accepted. In fact, a couple of times it was necessary for me to go to work in drag! Many of the managers were sorry that the Governor didn't pass that bill. I was harassed a bit for being Gay once, however, I didn't think it could happen in California, but walking from work in San Leandro one evening, a group of men were standing outside of a private club. They shouted obscenities at me and blocked the sidewalk. I was upset, but didn't have the time to deal with them,

the relief of no "foul play" made it easier!

Nez: Any plans for running in the future?

Ron: Let's just put a question mark on that one!

Nez: Who do you respect the most in the Community?

Ron: Even though we once had our major problems, this man — Stephanie — taught me how to be a "woman" in drag! He was one of the first Black Gay men in drag (there aren't too many of those around the country) that I ever met. He taught me about make-up and how to catch a man in a "womanly" way! She showed leadership with grace. We now talk freely and are starting to enjoy each other's company again. Another person I truly respect is Cha Cha. She showed me what it's like to be a lady of quality. She is a dear friend. I respect her for her ideas and how she's handling the Community. These two will definitely leave their names as damn good Empreses in this Community.

I have a hope that ACIE will get more people involved and willing to help those who are Emperor and Empress. The "voters" can't expect the two of them to do it all! They need HELP instead of bitching and complaining. The "voters" should give support and assistance.

Nez: Is there any ONE thing that you could do to "activate" all the Gays in Alameda Coun-

ty? Or is it even possible?

Ron: I don't know! I really doubt it!

Nes: Any final comments?

Ron: I have a splitting headache!

Please don't supply any more information to me; I'm already too well misinformed! But, I smile anyway and any way! Love,

Nes

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CLOSED MONDAYS

THIS

THURSDAY 5

• **Politics of the '80s:** A Gay and Lesbian Historical Perspective, symposium, Sonoma State University, Stevenson 1002, 7:30 to 10:30 PM, \$1. Guest speakers include San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt; Ann Engler, secretary of the Santa Rosa Democratic Club; Cleve Jones, aide to Assemblyman Art Agnos; and John Laird, Mayor of Santa Cruz.

• **Getting Your Affairs in Order:** presentation by attorneys, insurance experts, and SF AIDS Foundation staff; Women's Building dining hall, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7 PM, free.

• **New Age Relationships for Gay and Bisexual Men:** education event sponsored by the National Sex Forum and the SF AIDS Foundation, 1523 Franklin St. (between Pine and Bush), S.F., 7 PM, free.

• **Bettina:** singing entertainer, 132 Bush, S.F., 6 to 8 PM, \$3.

• **Danseur:** grand opening of videorock dance club, 715 Harrison St. (at 3rd), S.F. (formerly Echo Beach), 8:30 PM to 2 AM Thursdays (open to 18 and younger); 9:30 PM to 4 AM Fridays and Saturdays (open to 21 and older); \$5, no membership fee. Danseur will donate \$1 for each of the first 1,000 patrons attending each night of the grand opening to the Bay Area Music Archives.

• **Tuffly Eldredge and Christa Hillhouse:** 12-string originals, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.

• **Paul Jones:** with Ken Muir at the piano, music, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free.

• **An American Story:** stage performance, Asian American Theater Company, Julian Theater, 953 DeHaro St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7.50.

• **Creeps:** stage performance, San Francisco Repertory, 4147 19th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7. Directed by Fred Hartman, by Canadian playwright David Freeman.

• **The Dead End Kid:** stage performance, One Act Theater Company, 430 Mason St., S.F., 8 PM, \$10. Extended run on a limited basis, directed by Simon L. Levy with choreography by Roger Henderson.

• **Filumena:** stage performance, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 2 PM and 8 PM, \$10 to \$13.50. Italian comedy by Eduardo de Filippo, directed by Tony Amendola.

• **Heart City:** rock musical, On Broadway Theatre, 435 Broadway, S.F., 8 PM, \$10.50 advance, \$12.50 at the door.

• **Judy's Floating Head:** comedy written and performed by Lee Strucker and Nadine Caracciolo, intersection for the Arts, 756 Union St. (between Powell and Mason), S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7.

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St., S.F., 8 PM, \$15 and \$18. Award-winning playwright Jane Chambers' play about lesbian love and death.

• **Raven's Seed:** stage performance by Sansei Productions, People's Theater Coalition, Fort Mason Center, Building B, 8 PM, \$10.

• **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance, Magic Theatre, Building D, Fort Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, call 441-8822 for ticket prices.

• **Steeltown:** stage performance by the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8.

FRIDAY 6

• **Putting Safe Sex Principles Into Action:** education event of the SF AIDS Foundation sponsored by Richard Locke and friends, The Caldron, 953 Natoma St. (north of Howard, east of 11th), S.F., 10 PM, free.

• **Safe Sex Techniques:** education event sponsored by the National Sex Forum and the SF AIDS Foundation, 1523 Franklin St. (between Pine and Bush), S.F., 7 PM, free.

• **VD Testing:** 18th and Castro, S.F., 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, free. Sponsored by the San Francisco Department of Public Health City Clinic Volunteers. More volunteers are needed. Interested persons should call Marty at 285-1167 for more information.

• **All Join Hands:** first international Gay square dance convention, Madison Hotel, Seattle, Washington, through April 8. Western Star Dancers of San Francisco is organizing a group of participants from the Bay Area. For more information call Henry Shernoff at 282-7042.

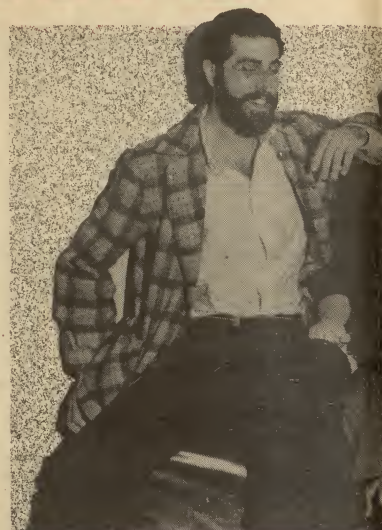
• **Jane Anderson:** From the Thighs of L.A. to the Heart of San Francisco, a one-woman comedy performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.

• **Comedy Cabaret:** featuring Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.

• **Danseur:** grand opening of videorock dance club (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Jane Dornacker and Tom Ammann:** comedy, Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8:30 PM, call 548-7234 for ticket information.

• **Kerrigan Black:** piano, vocals, guitar, at the Sansome St. Brasserie, 411 Sansome St., S.F., 5 to 8 PM, free.



The Leopard Set, an all-acoustic, modern-beat ensemble with

• **Charlie Murphy and Jami Sieber:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. Singer/songwriter Murphy and cellist/vocalist Sieber will be joined by percussionist June Hoffman and bass guitar/saxophonist Everett Armstrong to blend jazz, new wave, African, Latin, gospel, and folk music into World-Fusion Gospel. The group will also appear Saturday, April 7, at the Whole Life Expo at the Moscone Center.

• **Danny Williams:** comedy, Fanny's, 4230 18th St., S.F., 7 and 8 PM, free.

• **American Gems:** stage performance of two one-act plays, One Act Theatre Company, 430 Mason St., S.F., 8 PM \$10. Eugene O'Neill's *Hughie* and William Saroyan's *Once Around the Block* will be performed.

• **An American Story:** stage performance, \$8.50 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Creeps:** stage performance, \$8 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Filumena:** stage performance, 8 PM only (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Heart City:** rock musical (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Iolanthe:** stage presentation, Presentation Theater, Turk St. near Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, call 752-7755 for tickets. By Gilbert and Sullivan, directed by Orva Hoskinson with Gilbert Russak conducting.

• **Judy's Floating Head:** comedy theater performance, \$8 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$11 (see Thursday listing for details).

• **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

• **Steeltown:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

SATURDAY 7

• **AIDS Forum:** for bisexual men and women, sponsored by the SF AIDS Foundation and the Bisexual Center, at the Bisexual Center, 1757 Hayes St. (between Masonic and Central), S.F., 4 PM, free.

• **AIDS Treatment:** Experimental and Non-Traditional Approaches, education event sponsored by the SF AIDS Foundation and Planetree Health Resource Center, St. Mary's Cathedral, Room A, 1111 Gough St., S.F., 10 AM to 2 PM, free. Speakers will be Dr. Paul Volberding, Dr. Robert Bolan, Dr. Joseph Helms, Dr. Paul Lee, Dr. Richard Hamilton, and Dr. Paul Stuetzer.

• **Dance:** sponsored by the UC Berkeley Gay and Lesbian Union and the Mills Lesbian Union, Haas Club House, UC Berkeley, 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM, \$3. Shuttle bus leaves every 20 minutes from the corners of Telegraph and Bancroft, University and Center, and Euclid and Hearst in Berkeley. For more information call 642-6942 or 635-9015.

• **Putting Safe Sex Principles Into Action:** (see Friday listing for details).

• **Samuel M. Steward and Phil Andros:** celebrate publication of their books *Parisian Lives* and *Shuttlecock* at the Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 1 to 3 PM, free.

• **VD Testing:** Polk and Sutter Sts., S.F., Noon to 3 PM (see Friday listing for details).

• **Jane Anderson:** comedy (see Friday listing for details).

• **Benefit Show:** produced by Larry Starr, reigning Cowgirl of All California, The Traveler's Inn, 3rd and Tamalpais Sts., San Rafael, 8 PM, \$3. To raise funds for an excursion for limited-income senior citizens in Marin.

WEEK



ensemble will perform at the Valencia Rose Wednesday, April 11, at 8 PM.

- **The Bridge of Sighs:** stage performance, Pocket Opera Company, Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$12. By Offenbach, with Robert Tate, Roger Andrews, Eric Morris, and Lawrence Venza.
- **Danseur:** grand opening of videorock dance club (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Gay Comedy Night:** emceed by Tom Ammiano with guests Ruby "Rodriguez" Rubenstein, Robin Heller and Pam Anton, and Doug Holsclaw, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$4.
- **Mothertongue Reader's Theater: Passing: Identities Hidden and Exposed,** benefit for the Nancy Shaw Legal Defense Fund sponsored by Sociologists for Women in Society, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 3 PM, donation.
- **Naked Brunch:** a new episode of the live soap opera series, Club 181, 181 Eddy St. (at Taylor), S.F., 11 PM, \$5.
- **American Gems:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **An American Story:** stage performance, \$8.50 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Creeps:** stage performance, \$8 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Escorial and The Ugly Duckling:** stage performance, Haight Ashbury Repertory Theatre, Red Victorian Movie House, 1659 Haight St., S.F., 12:15 PM. *Escorial*, by Michel DeGhelderode, is directed by Valerie O'Riordan. *The Ugly Duckling*, by A.A. Millne, is directed by Larry Devlin.
- **Filumena:** stage performance, 8 PM only (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Heart City:** rock musical (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Iolanthe:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Judy's Floating Head:** comedy theater performance, \$8 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 5 PM, \$15 and \$18, 9 PM, \$17 and \$20 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$11 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Steeltown:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

SUNDAY 8

- **Robert Ferro:** author of the novel *The Family of Max Desir*, will be the guest on The Gay Life on KSN (95 FM) at 6 AM.
- **Gay Academic Union of the Bay Area:** meeting, World Print Gallery, Room 345, Fort Mason Building B, 4 PM, members free, guests \$2. Local Gay/Lesbian history projects will be discussed, including speakers from the West Coast Lesbian Collections, the Harvey Milk Archives, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay History Project, and the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Periodical Collection.
- **Lady Bianca:** jazz, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 4 PM, free.
- **Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 4 PM, \$3.
- **A Friendly Affair:** concert by The Vocal Minority, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Will include standards in jazz, pop, and choral styles focusing on songs from the '30s and '40s.
- **Kerrigan Black:** piano, vocals, guitar, at The Griffton, 1700 Shattuck at Virginia, Berkeley, from 7:30 to 11:30 PM, free.

- **Naked Brunch:** live soap opera, 9 PM (see Saturday listing for details).
- **American Gems:** stage performance, 3 PM, \$7, 7:30 PM, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **An American Story:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Creeps:** stage performance, 2 PM, \$6, 8 PM, \$7 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Filumena:** stage performance, 2 and 7 PM (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Heart City:** rock musical (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance, 3 and 7 PM, \$15 and \$18 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, 2 and 8 PM, \$10, (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance, 2 and 8:30 PM (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Steeltown:** stage performance, 2 PM, \$6, 7 PM, \$8, last performance (see Thursday listing for details).

MONDAY 9

- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** with co-emcees Tom Ammiano and Monica Palacios, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2.
- **Maryanne Price and the Millionaires:** boogie-woogie, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Girls Can't Help It and Exposure:** new wave music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4.

TUESDAY 10

- **Bettina:** singing entertainer, Gary Menger's Cabaret/ San Francisco '84, Plush Room, 940 Sutter St., S.F., 8:30 PM, cover.
- **The Rites of Spring:** An Evening of Dutch Poetry in Translation, poetry by both Gay and straight poets focusing on war and death, resistance and resurrection, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Music by the Sulmo Trio-Berkeley with Lulu Karp, violin; Susan Kinlock, flute; and Monique Visser, piano.
- **Debbie Saunders:** rhythm and blues, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **The Dead End Kid:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Filumena:** stage performance, 8 PM only (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$9 (see Thursday listing for details).

WEDNESDAY 11

- **Titanic Tonight:** annual gala event commemorating the sinking of the ocean liner, Sheraton-Palace Garden Court, Market and New Montgomery Sts., \$75, dinner included. For more information and reservations, call the Oceanic Society in San Francisco at 441-5970.
- **Kerrigan Black:** piano, vocals, guitar, at the New Orleans Bar and Grill, 2088 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 8 PM to 12 AM, free.
- **The Leopard Set:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. All-acoustic, modern beat ensemble performs original songs and jazz standards.
- **Lisa Pawlak:** acoustic rock, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 PM, free.
- **Creeps:** benefit performance of stage production for United Cerebral Palsy, 8 PM, \$10 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Dead End Kid:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Filumena:** stage performance, 8 PM only (see Thursday listing for details).
- **5th of July:** stage performance, opens at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Call 861-5079 for ticket prices and availability. Written by Lanford Wilson and directed by Joe Cappelletta.
- **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).
- **Raven's Seed:** stage performance, \$9 (see Thursday listing for details).
- **The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium:** stage performance (see Thursday listing for details).

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

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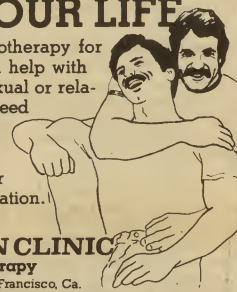
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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

John Waters

The King of Sleaze

by Steve Warren

John Waters sounds normal.

Slightly jet-lagged from a trip to Paris, where his book *Shock Value* was just published under the provocative French title *Provocation* and his films were given a retrospective at the Cinematheque Francaise, he answers the phone cordially at his Baltimore home, even though we've interrupted his viewing of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Why should John Waters' films be given retrospectives last month at the Cinematheque, this weekend at the Castro and next week in Iowa City? (Iowa City? "It's a lot like Berkeley," he says. For Iowa.) When some of the great filmmakers have never had retrospectives, why is this sleaze merchant being so honored?

Because scumbags like you are sick enough to buy tickets, that's why.

The man who made "Divine" a bawdy household word has been a movie nut for most of his (as of April 22) 38 years. A puppeteer before he started making movies, he's sure he would have ended up in show business even without Divine intervention. They've been friends since their teens, but Waters made his first short film, *Hag in a Black Leather Jacket* (1964, without Divine and gave him only a small role with no billing ("a mere starlet") in *Roman Candles* (1966).

Those 8 mm. epics are unsuitable for theatrical showing, as is *Eat Your Makeup* (1968), Divine's first starring film; but the rest of the Waters oeuvre will be shown at the Castro this Saturday in three shows separated by puke breaks.

The matinee (1:30 PM) will feature *Polyester*, the most re-

cent, most accessible and most successful (it's been shown in 30 countries, Waters reports, most recently Iceland) of the lot — and the only one in "Odorama," a gimmick featuring a "scratch and sniff" card full of disgusting smells. Also on the bill are *Pink Flamingos*, the movie that started it all by becoming a midnight cult success (it's been running for ten years at the Nu-Art in Los Angeles, where Waters appears tonight — Thursday — to celebrate the anniversary) because everyone wanted to see Divine eat dogshit (he spit it out afterward, or so he says); and *Desperate Living*, Waters' only major film without Divine.

The writer-producer-director will appear in person at 8 PM to introduce his personal favorite, *Female Trouble*, which will be preceded by *The Dianne Linkletter Story*. Hardcore fans and other masochists will want to see the 11 PM showing of Waters' first two full-length features, *Mondo Trasho* and *Multiple Maniacs*. He calls *Mondo Trasho* "the worst by far . . . It cost \$2,000 to make and looks like it cost \$1,000 . . . It's really just 90 minutes about Divine getting in and out of cars . . . It's okay to see if you've seen all the others and just want to see how we started."

Although Waters sounds normal, he resembles something you'd step on if it crawled out from under your sink.

"I always feel I look like Don Knotts," he says. "I try to become more a caricature of myself as I get older." He doesn't go in for frequent changes of image, just tries to look "like a successful funeral parlor owner."

He's been spending a lot of time in prison lately, but not for



John Waters (L.) with Divine and Tab Hunter.

the reasons you might expect. He recently went to Florida for a Baltimore paper to interview Arthur Goode, "a man who raped and murdered little boys." Goode had committed crimes in Maryland as well, but Florida won the toss.

Last year Waters taught a film course to prison inmates in Baltimore. "I'm into correction now," he explains. "The state of Maryland paid me to show murderers my films" (Talk about "cruel and unusual punishment!" It was his own idea, but "they (the state) were very supportive of the whole thing." The program included some of Waters' favorites he thought the prisoners would enjoy: *Fat City*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Wise Blood*. All went over well, he reports, except *Streetcar*: "They thought it was corny."

After the movies the convicts would improvise, writing and acting out their own scenes. Waters laughs recalling their final project: "The biggest brute

in the place played Santa Claus. Everybody sat in his lap and told him what they wanted. Oh, it's etched in my mind forever."

It's been four years since *Polyester*, but Waters finally has two film projects in the works. One is too far off to talk about — "It might be bad luck" — and the other is "a joke on movie sequels" called *Flamingos Forever*. He likens it to *The Big Chill* — a reunion movie showing what happened to the characters of *Pink Flamingos* ten years later. It will star Divine, Edith Massey and most of the rest of the original cast, plus some new Waters discoveries. It was ready to go this spring, Waters says, but "one of the backers pulled out, so maybe we'll do it this fall."

Perhaps it's the hassle of raising money, but he doesn't sound as eager to get to work as you might expect. For one thing, he says, "I don't think the world needs a new John Waters movie every year. One a year would be too many."

Divine, meanwhile, is supposed to be making a film called *Lust in the Dust* for Paul Bartel of *Eating Raoul* fame. "I talked to Paul this morning and he says it's on," Waters informs us. Tab Hunter, who made his comeback in *Polyester*, will be producing and co-starring. Other details are vague but Waters thinks Edith Massey and Cesar Romero will be in the cast, and the rumored Gale Storm will not.

Waters tries to increase his budget with each new movie (*Polyester* was the first to go in to six figures). If he were given unlimited funds to work with he would have two modest ambitions, he says: "I'd buy 'Confederacy of Dunces' back from Johnny Carson Productions." He says the John Kennedy Toole book is the only thing he hasn't written himself that he'd like to make a movie of.

The other dream might be realized less expensively than he thinks: "I would hire all the stars I'd really love to work with — Anita Ekberg, Joey Heatherton, Pia Zadora, Benji — all the greats!" Or all the dogs.

Speaking of Waters' dubious taste, we thought it might be instructive to ask the movie buff about his favorite recent films.

Two of the six he mentions have never played in San Francisco, and you're forgiven if you've missed some of the others: "Of Unknown Origin, a movie about a giant rat; *Angel*; *The Moon in the Gutter*, which was the *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* of art films; *Cujo*; *Fanny and Alexander* . . ."

But his very favorite, he says, is "a picture that just played for a week on 42nd Street. It was called *Christmas Evil* . . . about a man so obsessed with being Santa Claus that he spies on children and goes home and writes in a book about them. . . . He murders someone with the top of a Christmas tree star . . . and the children protect him because they think he's Santa Claus. The original title was *You Better Watch Out*, which was better . . . It's one of those movies that only plays the week before Christmas, when nobody goes to the movies."

Although Baltimore is Waters' home, he says he lived in San Francisco "for a year and a half around 1970;" and like every Gay man he keeps up with what goes on here. He's heard a somewhat exaggerated report about our having outlawed smoking, but he's not very relieved to learn that it only applies in certain work situations. "How can you work without smoking?" he asks in horror.

The idea of closing the bathhouses ("What's that going to do? You can fuck in the bushes, you can fuck anywhere.") is just another indication of how rapidly the absurdity of life is making it difficult for him to find things to exaggerate to satiric or shock purpose in his films. "I'm not trying so much anymore to shock people, just to get them to laugh at everything that's wrong."

Anticipation of The City's other major event this year (besides the John Waters Film Festival) amuses the filmmaker: "The one thing you can be sure of when they have the convention in San Francisco, Mondale isn't gonna yell, 'Where's the beef?'"

And so the Sultan of Sleaze returns to the yellow brick road which will lead him this week to San Francisco, but which we can be sure will never lead him to good taste. ■

Life, Death, and Rebirth

'Bluefish Cove' Runs Deep, Opens Well in S.F.

Performance is True to Script; A Few Shortcomings on Opening Night

by Dianne Gregory

Last Summer at Bluefish Cove, which opened April 1 at Theatre on the Square, is a play which transcends its basic theme of Lesbian love and death.

The play is essentially about Lil: How she falls in love as she is dying of cancer; and how she, her new-found love, and her friends try to help each other pull through the experience. But it is about so much more. It is about death and rebirth, heterophobia, the hazards of the closet, and what it means to be Gay in the last quarter of the Twentieth Century. It is a beautiful play. Go see it.

The San Francisco production of *Bluefish Cove* was not without flaws on opening night, but generally it did more than justice to the script by the late Jane Chambers. (Chambers, ironically, was diagnosed with the cancer she died of five years after writing the play.) Each of the eight female characters was

distinct, fully developed, and true-to-life. I believed most — but not all — of them.

This production also marks an attempt by producer Judy Miller to market the play for larger audiences. To this end, Susan Sullivan — the television actress who plays Maggie on

Falcon Crest — was hired to play the role of Lil. Maybe she is not yet comfortable with the role, but she never convinced me of her Lesbianism.

Just as Sullivan didn't inhale the smoke from the cigarettes she smoked on stage — sure sign of a nonsmoker — she never looked

(Continued on next page)



Susan Sullivan (standing) plays Lil to Katherine Cortez's Eva in *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*.

BLUEFISH COVE

(Continued from previous page)

like she was really enjoying touching her lover in their love scenes. It wasn't that she looked as though she found it distasteful, but that she had never experienced what comes next. That shouldn't stop her from being convincing in her role, and I hope she will become more comfortable with it as the production continues.

Katherine Cortez as Eva, Lil's lover, does a wonderful job in a pivotal role. Eva is anathema to all the things that the residents of Bluefish Cove hold sacred —

blossoming under Lil's tutelage are coming-out experiences everyone can relate to. Cortez makes them that way.

Four of the six other women in the play (Camilla Carr as Kitty, Nora Heflin as Annie, Lee Garlington as Rae, and Sarah Langenfeld as Donna) come from the production of *Bluefish Cove* that has run for two years in Los Angeles. As such, their performances are polished and comfortable. Joan Pringle as Rita is charming, if a bit overstated, and Winifred Mann as Sue would be adequate — if she would speak up a little. Many of her lines get lost between the stage and the rafters.

Generally, the acting was fast-

The role of Eva can make or break any production of *Bluefish Cove*, and Cortez approaches it with a sensitivity that makes Eva alive and real and totally believable.

she is heterosexual, or at least starts out that way. Eva progresses from a confused runaway housewife to an independent woman with job and travel plans. She is the legacy Lil left to the living, the rebirth of woman born of Lil's death. The role of Eva can make or break any production of *Bluefish Cove*, and Cortez approaches it with a sensitivity that makes Eva alive and real and totally believable. Her experience at the hands of the dykes of Bluefish Cove, her feelings as Lil seduces her, and her

paced — too fast. Many lines were lost, including one hilarious exchange between Lil and Annie which, in its reading, makes for one of the funnier points in the play. Several potentially confusing transitions in the play were handled very well, and the lapses in time came across clear as a bell.

The set for *Bluefish Cove* is difficult to pull off because it requires both interior and exterior settings with no change of scenery. Instead, the lighting and the attitudes of the actors

signal a change of scene. The set in this production is well-built and pleasing to the eye — but more importantly, it works. I would have liked the exterior part of the set to have been larger — sometimes you couldn't see the actors if they were sitting or lying on the beach — but overall the set was well-conceived and well-constructed. The lighting, all-important with this type of set, also worked well except for a slightly distracting ripple-type effect used to introduce the beach scenes that reminded me of those ballroom mirror things.

Last Summer at *Bluefish Cove* says something important to both Gay and straight audiences. As Jane Chambers wrote in 1981, "Life is not a crap shoot; it is what we who love each other do together, and that is, in itself, sufficient meaning." There is something in that statement we can all learn from. ■

D. Gregory

Cortez Interviewed

Wednesday, April 11, from 4:30 to 6 PM on KPFA (FM 94) David Lamble will interview Katherine Cortez from Jane Chambers' *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, which has begun a limited run at Theatre on the Square in San Francisco. Listeners are invited to call in at (415) 848-4425. ■

Dykes Are Women, Too

by Bernard Spunberg

The words "lesbian" and "dyke" were temporarily reduced to bleeps in an advertisement broadcast during the week of March 19 by San Francisco radio station KYUU for Jane Chambers' drama, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*. KYUU broadcasts romantic soft rock, but apparently had some doubts about an ad for a play dealing with lesbian love. The offending sentences, quotations from the play, aired as follows:

"I couldn't just say that all the women in this cove are (bleep) because I don't have the right to make that kind of announcement for them."

"George always claimed that Women Libbers are a bunch of (bleep)."

"Some are. After all, (bleep) are women, too."

Disc jockey Rick Shaw also had some doubts about the bleeps. He followed at least one airing of the ad with the comment, "Is there any reason why we can't say 'lesbians' on the air? This was San Francisco, the last time I looked."

Bleeps — and possibly a few nonbleeps — among KYUU's listenership shared Shaw's sentiments. Explaining that at no time did he suggest disgruntled listeners call the station, Shaw requests that he "not be given too much credit. I was just reacting to what I heard." Nevertheless, KYUU did receive calls protesting the bleeps and began broadcasting an uncensored ver-

sion of the *Bluefish Cove* ad by March 22.

Karen Bunde of Dubin Bunde Associates, the Los Angeles advertising agency that created the spot, says she was aware that KYUU might have problems with the spot as written. To avoid risking the ad's being badly distorted by KYUU, Bunde created the bleeped version herself. Realizing, however, that minds can change, Bunde sent KYUU both the bleeped and unbleeped versions.

On what basis was the decision to broadcast bleeps instead of "lesbians" and "dykes" made? How many calls protesting the bleeps did KYUU receive? Most important, has the incident had any effect on KYUU's fundamental policies? Shaw and two workers in KYUU's continuity department plead ignorance, and station manager John Hayes' secretary says, "Mr. Hayes declines to be interviewed at the present time."

Judy Miller, producer of *Bluefish Cove*, did not know KYUU would broadcast bleeps until they were already on the air.

"But even if we had known what they were going to do," says Miller, "we would have let them go ahead. My associate, Jerry B. Wheeler, and I believe that the bleeps made a statement of their own. They reflect the homophobia pervasive in our culture and underline the value and significance of *Bluefish Cove* as a play about love among members of a minority whose very name is subject to suppression."



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Quips & Quotes

By Woolly

... comments, bitchery and wisdom from the year gone by to enlighten or confuse the year ahead.

Woody Allen: "Instead of facing challenges we turn instead to distractions like drugs and sex. We live in too permissive a society. Never before has pornography been this rampant. And those films are lit so badly."

Gore Vidal: "You may speak of love, tenderness and passion, but real ecstasy is discovering you haven't lost your car keys."

How to college, a Stanford University primer on dating the sons of celebrities: "They are often Republicans, homosexual or Yankee fans."

Anonymous at the Health Clinic: "There's no such thing as just a little VD."

B.A.R. INTERVIEW

The Cuts Drag On

Cross-Dresser Denis Quilley Comes Across on Gay Role

by Steve Warren

Denis Quilley has a lot to say about drag for a man who has only donned it for one role in his 40 years of professional acting; but the British look at things somewhat differently, and besides, that one role was rather a milestone for him. "Acting Capt. Terri Dennis" was the leading character in Peter Nichols' *Privates on Parade* when Quilley played him for the Royal Shakespeare Company for a year (1977-78) in London, winning the Society of West End Theatres' award as Best Comedy Actor of the Year in the process. (A few years later they were to name him Best Musical Actor for *Sweeney Todd*.) He repeats the role — or what's left of it — in the film version.

Terri directs the odd (and in at least three cases including his own, queer) lot of soldiers in SADUSEA — Song And Dance Unit, South East Asia — who put the "sing" in Singapore in 1948. Because there's only one woman in the company — and because they love it! — the men frequently wear drag in their shows.

The unit's military commander is Maj. Giles Flack, played in the movie by Monty Python's John Cleese. Because

too explicitly sexual — you can get away with more on the stage — and some that wouldn't have been understood (outside of England). He admits that Cleese's popularity may have been a factor, but shrugs that off as a fact of show business life.

In the film as in the play, musical numbers alternate with comic and dramatic scenes to develop a story with a partially tragic conclusion. An early sequence in the stage version brought out the human being in

The move to macho is understandably to change our image as victims, but have we gone too far?

"When I was a kid . . . the Gay scene was gentle . . . Now, it's all bulging T-shirts and Burt Reynolds moustaches . . . it seems aggressive, violent, intimidating."

Cleese's name means more at the all-important American box-office, hardly a word of Maj. Flack's dialogue has been left out — in fact some has been added — while Capt. Dennis' part has been cut by about half, including numbers in which he played Noel Coward, Marlene Dietrich and Vera Lynn.

Perhaps as a consolation prize Quilley gets to visit four American cities in support of the movie's initial U.S. release — Miami, where it was shown in a festival; and New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, where March theatrical engagements will determine whether *Privates* gets wider distribution.

Quilley defends most of the cuts that have been made: "The play was a bit long . . . They removed things that were either

Terri's constant camping. After changing out of his Dietrich drag he turned directly to the audience and related his romantic history, including the tale of his true love, a sailor who was killed in the war; "The next-of-kin were informed, his wife and his mother, but I had to hear it a long time after from someone off the same ship in a Gay bar."

That speech, which could have inspired some elements of *Torch Song Trilogy*, was in the English cut of the film but has been excised for the U.S. "That's the cut I most regret," Quilley says. "It showed a sensitive, lonely person." He's always tried to make audiences share the affection he and the playwright feel for the character, "certainly the nicest man in the play;" but American audiences may be



"It Takes a Fairy to Make Something Pretty." Denis Quilley puts the finishing touches on Joe Melia's drag as Simon Jones (standing) and David Bamber look on in *Privates on Parade*.

jarred when he suddenly reveals his warm side near the end.

While Quilley's portrayal may bring objections from that fascistic element in the Gay community that considers it politically incorrect to recall that Gay men ever did (let alone still do!) dress in women's clothing or otherwise acknowledge the feminine side of their natures, most Gays in England praised it to the skies.

"On opening night," he relates, "two old friends of mine, a well-established Gay couple, the most famous theatre historians in London, flung their arms around me . . . and another friend, a CHE member — that's the Council for Homosexual Equality in England — got up a party of 40, to come back and see it again."

The other Gays in SADUSEA are Charlie, a young nurse, and his lover Len, a middle-aged, super-butch sergeant whose every other word is "fuck." In a scene near the end Charlie tries to impose his lifestyle on Terri: "At your age you should be settling down." The whole speech is blatantly homophobic, but the worst line of it — "I don't think we should flaunt this cruel trick of nature" — has been cut from the film.

Nichols based *Privates on Parade* on his own military experiences, according to Quilley, in an entertainment unit which

included director John Schlesinger (*Midnight Cowboy*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*). The inspiration for Terri was "a fading drag queen, Barry Chat," who joined up because he was running out of options.

Quilley says he turned down the role when it was first offered to him, "not because it was a Gay character — he was so well written that I empathized with

him — but because I had never done drag before, never attempted this type of impersonation that Danny La Rue and Stanley Baxter do so well." What sold him was when Michael Blake, more, who directed both stage and screen versions, pointed out that Terri was not exactly the best in the world at what he did.

(Continued on page 31)

Privates on Parade

by Steve Warren

Privates on Parade is a music hall revue that incorporates comic, dramatic and musical turns into a drag show with a plot. It's *Streamers* played for laughs and *South Pacific* with a British accent. And being all that, it could hardly have been very good.

In Singapore in 1948 we meet Song And Dance Unit, South East Asia, known by the Biblical sounding acronym SADUSEA. They're the troops who entertain the troops. Because only one of them is a woman, roles aren't assigned on the basis of sex or sexual preference; but we know why the director, Capt. Terri Dennis, gives himself the best parts — Carmen Miranda, the middle Andrews Sister, etc.

Referring to all men by feminine names and pronouns, Terri runs afoul of the new commanding officer, Major Giles Flack (John Cleese), with his epithet, "Jessica Christ." The major is a pious man, which of course means racist and militaristic.

A new member of the unit, after being issued his tap shoes and eye shadow, naively tells Terri, "I'm going to be attached to your section." "Sounds heavenly," the captain swoons. Such *double-entendre* "passes for wit among people of (Terri's) persuasion," the major is informed. "Theatricals?" he asks, and is told, "A certain type of theatricals."

Two men in SADUSEA are known to be lovers, Len (Joe Melia) and Charles (David Bamber). Another, Eric Young-Love (Simon Jones), appears to be Gay but insists, "There's nothing camp about me. I'm not a homosexual." "Don't worry, sweetie," Terri assures him. "It doesn't show from out front."

With all the fun of Denis Quilley's performance as Terri, a character that ranks with Emory of *The Boys in the Band* and Arnold of *Torch Song Trilogy*, it's too bad Peter Nichols felt compelled to carry over the serious plot into what is basically a condensation of his stage play. The murky business about smuggling guns to both sides was confusing enough on stage when there was time for explanations. Now it makes no sense at all; but when a large audience is laughing at the funny parts it hardly seems to matter.

Quilley makes a charming graduate of the Liberace School of Butch Behavior, and Cleese does a satisfying variation of the British officer he's played many times on "Monty Python's Flying Circus." One can imagine Maj. Flack in retirement, spending his days writing letters of complaint to the BBC.

In adapting his play for the screen Nichols had de-Britishized it enough that Americans won't need subtitles and left his Gay characters sympathetic if a shade less human; but he's taken out some good jokes and some good drag numbers and weakened the play's anti-war message.

Original stage director Michael Blakemore shows an excellent visual sense in his first feature film and has fun mixing black-and-white sequences with color. His pacing's less than perfect, but that could be the fault of editing that was imposed on him.

Both meanings of the title are inaccurate. Everyone in SADUSEA is given at least temporary rank to assure them better facilities on the road; and nudity is carefully avoided, even in a shower scene.

I've seen *Privates on Parade* with and without an audience, and a laughing crowd covers most of its flaws. ■

(Lumiere)

"A straight woman in Bluefish Cove."

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Film Fest

The 27th San Francisco International Film Festival will screen more than 100 films from April 11 to 24, with almost half of them being shown at the Castro Theatre. The Ghirardelli Cinema, Pacific Film Archives (Berkeley) and the War Memorial Opera House are other venues in what promises to be the best festival in years.

The *Bay Area Reporter* will offer, this week and next, reviews and highlights of many of the films that were previewed for film critics. When a film has been picked up for theatrical distribution (for regular theater showings at a later date), it will be so noted in the reviews.

Likely sell-outs are expected for *The Fourth Man*, *Clementine Tango*, *La Belle Captive*, *The Wild Duck*, *The Terence Davies Trilogy*, *A Night at the Movies '41*, and *Stop Making Sense*. In addition, Festival Tributes are always brisk ticket-sellers. This year they include Ginger Rogers, Gena Rowlands and John Cassavetes, Burgess Meredith, and cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa.

S.F. International Film Festival Highlights



Jeroen Krabbé plays a Dutch homosexual in *The Fourth Man* shown during the S.F. International Film Festival.

The Fourth Man

A slightly alcoholic Dutch homosexual writer meets an alluring, seductive woman while on a speaking engagement. He goes home with her, and because he sees her body as somewhat boyish, is able to have successful sex with her.

But he is obsessed with strange premonitions and even stranger wrapped-in-symbolism dreams, mostly centered around his death.

He is broke, so is only too delighted to move in with the rich woman. Besides, she has a hot boyfriend who he happened to cruise in the railway station on the way to the speaking engagement. Staying with her and play-

ing mind games is his clever way of getting his chance with the guy, another fortune seeker. Alas, those bloody symbols keep getting in the way.

With natural nudity and a barrage of visual, stylized stream-of-consciousness, Paul Verhoeven's *The Fourth Man* is a readily engrossing spider web of intrigue. The symbolism is purposely heavy-handed, but the film's brilliant pacing and well-conceived imagery make it quite entertaining. The homosexuality is handled with natural grace and offers a couple of erotic scenes, one with, of all things, a crucifix, and another in, of all places, a mausoleum.

The Fourth Man has been picked up for theatrical distribution.

(April 12, 7PM, Castro Theatre) M. Lasky

The Wild Duck

Most filmmakers have not had too much luck bringing Henrik Ibsen's plays to the big screen. Extreme underplaying and subtlety are required if his larger-than-life dramas are to be considered credible. This Australian production boasts such heavyweights as Liv Ullmann and Jeremy Irons but, alas, that is not enough to save it from its lumbering, overmanned direction.

Sabotaged by an abrasively maudlin soundtrack, somewhat

surprisingly self-conscious performances and embarrassingly unprofessional photography (numerous times we see camera equipment and the microphone bobbing in the periphery), *The Wild Duck* comes across more like a wild turkey.

Ibsen's theme of human blindness both physically and metaphorically seems more obvious than suggested in this version directed limply by Henri Safran. Yet we don't get too many chances to see this classic with this type of cast, so for the curious and the aficionado it still is of interest.

(April 15, 9:30 PM, Castro Theatre) M. Lasky



Characters don't have much to say, but have much on their minds, in *Le Bal*.

Le Bal

Shut Up and Dance

That's exactly what everyone in *Le Bal* does as the film traces close to 50 years of French history by following the habits of an art deco ballroom from 1936 to the present.

There is not one word uttered in Ettore Scola's internationally acclaimed Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Film. Instead we are treated to a comedy-drama with music and dance based on a successful theatrical venture. Following various characters through eight periods, a universal communication that says more than mores could ever do takes over.

The temper of the times is captured through an ingratiating soundtrack of music from each period and through the many splendid actors in multiple parts. Because there is no dialogue, the actors must rely on their faces and bodies to convey what they are thinking. It is to their credit that they make us forget they haven't actually said anything. It is to the director's credit that the film moves so fluidly and

entertainingly.

From 1936's popular front to the War in 1940 to the 1942 Occupation to 1944 liberation and the entry of Americans a year later to the Algerian War and rock and roll in '56 and revolution in 1968, we finally arrive at 1983 carefully called "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Throughout this we hear more than 50 songs featuring such artists as

Maurice Chevalier, Edith Piaf, The Beatles, The Platters, and Duke Ellington.

Le Bal is a human comedy filled with emotion, charm, tenderness and, above all, wisdom. It deservedly won the Cesar (the French Oscar) for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Music Score.

(Cannery) M. Lasky

One Night Stands

Films of Gay Interest This Coming Week

by Michael Benzy

Friday, April 6: (UC Theatre) Pansexuals. David Bowie is an alien with a Gay manager in *The Man Who Fell to Earth*. Mick Jagger is the pansexual manager of a mobster in *Performance*.

Friday-Saturday, April 6-7: (Red Victorian) Myra Breckenridge. Gore Vidal's essay on masculinity in America is turned into a fascinating piece of garbage featuring Mae West, John

Huston, Raquel Welch, and Rex Reed.

Saturday, April 7: (York) Women in Love. D. H. Lawrence's tale of two married couples includes the guys wrestling nude for Oliver Reed and Alan Bates fans, and one of the wives (Glenda Jackson) involved with a Gay couple.

Tuesday, April 10: (UC Theatre) Jean Cocteau's *Blood of a Poet* is perfect for surrealists. With Richter's *Dreams That Money Can Buy* and *Vigo's Zero for Conduct*.

Wednesday, April 11: (Strand) Pasolini's sensitive and human *The Gospel According to St. Matthew* with the fun, nudity, and games of Arabian Nights.

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STAGE

Catholic School

by Bernard Spunberg

Bottled-up emotions explode in *The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium* currently onstage at the Magic Theatre. Playwright Lucy Lewis writes of relationships among nuns at a Catholic girls' boarding school with sympathy, but she identifies most strongly with the students. Monika Gurney and Maud Winchester play roommates thrown together in the hope that exposure to Winchester's charm and poise will transform Gurney's awkward homeliness.

A Lesbian subtext surfaces when Winchester falls in love with Gurney, much to the nuns' hypocritical dismay. Gurney and Winchester capture the volatile, quicksilver quality of young women discovering passion and conflict greater than they had believed possible. Playwright Lewis has created a relationship straddling the abyss between adolescence and maturity. Her dialogue constantly shifts from childish trivia to emotional truth as the girls struggle to come to grips with their powerful but

ephemeral feelings.

In contrast to the two principal characters, the two nuns are written from the outside in rather than the inside out. Playwright Lewis outlines the mechanics of their conflict and guilt over sex and religion, but the inner workings of their hearts remain mysterious. Sandra Cannon and Tracy Lee offer imaginative, deeply-felt portrayals. The sensitivity of their characterizations underscores the irony of age and supposed maturity which bring self-knowledge and self-acceptance no greater than that of youth.

Darting in and out of the main action, Maureen McVerry plays a girl destined to be a saint, a whore, or an asylum inmate—we're not quite sure which. Mute throughout, McVerry's huge eyes suggest a caged animal alternately terrified and resigned.

Gerald E. Ambinder projects no such subtlety in the role of a student's sleazy guardian. Ambinder indulges his addiction to out-of-bounds females by kissing

a student and a nun and then tries to blackmail the head nun. Ambinder does nothing with his juicy role. Instead of playing a slimy, smooth-talking exploiter of the weak and lonely, Ambinder simply walks through his part.

Director Simon L. Levy must share the blame for Ambinder's ineptitude and for the play's slightly excessive length. He may also, however, take credit for creating a vocabulary and rhythm of movement that conveys a nasty little network of dominant and passive relationships.

Though *The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium* would benefit from cutting, the work achieves success by staying within modest parameters. Playwright Lewis avoids weighty statements about the nature of Catholicism. She passes no judgments. She attempts no stylistic fireworks. With admirable intensity and sincerity of purpose, she restricts herself to sympathetic but truthful examination of character and relationship. ■

The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium
Magic Theatre
Through April 29; 441-8822



Maud Winchester (r.) and Monika Gurney in *The Sister Joseph Memorial Gymnasium*.

Reality's Merry 'Dead End'

by John F. Karr

As musicals go, *The Dead End Kid* is nearly the best of all possible worlds. It's as fresh as a show can be, an attribute that can rarely be applied to the New York brand of "Let's Add Songs to an Old Movie" musical. *Dead End Kid* combines old-fashioned musical comedy technique and zest with contemporary sensibility, a pinch of Pirandello and a lot of snappily creative tunes to keep the show percolating along in merry and surprising fashion. It's like seeing *Bye Bye Birdie* or *Boy Meets Boy* for the first time—this is no rerun, no conventional show, but a happy whisk into that Never Never Land of unreality set to music that only the best, and most original, musical comedies achieve.

Originally a series of low-budget films, the antics of the New York street gang made new fans when syndicated to television in the 1950's. One such fan is the hero of this current musical. In his schizophrenic fantasy, Bryan believes he's the Kids' leader, Leo Dorsey. He's supported in this delusion by the Kids themselves, who acquire

out of the TV showing their re-runs to join Leo/Bryan in a song, dance and a hilarious—a provocative—intermingling of reality and movie shadowland.

Our preoccupation with Hollywood, questions of identity posed by Pirandello, and the silly conventions of musical comedy are here bouncily balled to-

certed number is sheer Broadway Donizetti. Really: It blossoms easily from verse (recitative) to song-snatch (arioso) to full tune (aria) and on into ensemble. It couldn't be more delicious or captivating.

Likewise the cast, with the Boys themselves standouts. Dan Hiatt's body can do anything, Stephen Sloane is a quick whipper-snapper and Grant Machan an attractive foil. Priscilla Alden is way beyond Divine as Bryan's

Whenever the show starts settling down, some plot twist or other gives the ball a kick and we're off again.

gether. Whenever the show starts settling down, some plot twist or other gives the ball a kick and we're off again, as the *Dead End Kids* (visible only to Bryan/Leo) spar with punk rockers, politicians, and that arch-rival of all time, Reality.

Direction by Simon L. Levy is a Gower Champion conflagration of creativity, and the music (Steve Sigel and Andy Kalberg) and lyrics (Sigel) are shockingly snappy. A bit of gaggle strut sets off a mother-daughter feud before leading to a comical section fitting the two together in pure living Boy-Girl, and a coda

"mother," and Tina Sigel as a punker is too-too. Steve Cotten's Bryan/Leo could be better delineated, but with such a confusion of characters, comedy and song whirling around him, it doesn't much matter.

No wonder the show has won or is nominated under every category known to Mr. Weiner's "Bernies," the Bay Area Critics Circle and the Drama League Awards. It's a hit, and it's been held over nearly indefinitely. ■

The Dead End Kid
One Act Theatre Co.
Through May 22; 441-8822

FROM FIFTH POSITION

The Importance of Imports

KEITH WHITE

A company as self-congratulatory as the San Francisco Ballet does not heavily promote a program on which the major works are all imports. Last week's Program IV was just such an evening, marking the local premiere of George Balanchine's early masterpiece *The Prodigal Son*, along with the return of his *Chaconne*, one of last season's great successes. Also back for a second look was Jiri Kylian's *Forgotten Land*, choreographed for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1981 and first danced by SFB in early 1983.

Amid such grand-scale works, Lew Christensen's *Airs de Ballet* is no more than a pleasant divertissement; a pas de trois interrupted by a pas de deux. In the first cast, Gina Ness and Alexander Topchy had unity that lacked poetry. Individually, Ness showed a precise allegro; Topchy gave us high elevation. The greater charm of the work was in its pas de trois, with Catherine Batcheller and Eda Holmes the twin partners of the very handsome Keith Schaeffer, in his first leading role.

Chaconne is the most recent Balanchine ballet to be approved for performance by companies other than the New York City Ballet, as *Prodigal Son* is the oldest. No two ballets could be more dissimilar. *Prodigal Son*, a dance drama, retells the Biblical story to a great twentieth-century ballet score (Prokofiev) commissioned for the choreographer during the latter days of Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. *Chaconne* uses ballet music

from Gluck's opera *Orpheus et Euridice* and is a themeless pure dance ballet in classic style. In *Chaconne*'s Olympic-scaled ballerina and danseur roles, Victoria Morgan and Jim Sohn were exceedingly elegant; Wendy Van Dyck and Nigel Courtney were charming in the second pas de deux, despite a few technical problems.

Prodigal Son was set on SFB (rather hurriedly, I understand) by John Taras, a current ballet master of the New York City Ballet. Despite the challenges inherent in doing a ballet so dramatic, so old and well-known, it looked good at both performances I saw. We should be very grateful to have Kirk Peterson's powerful rendering of the Son, a role he has reportedly performed with two other companies prior to dancing it here. With Peterson, Tracy-Kai Maier is a natural for the role of the Siren, and she danced it with a relish that seemed evil indeed. The other cast was interesting in the promise it showed. Ricardo Bustamante, an extremely beautiful but quite classically-oriented dancer, did not fully develop the character of the Son. He appeared more willful than youthful and impatient, diffident with his new-found drinking buddies and almost bashful in the presence of the Siren. Victoria Morgan had difficulties with the long cape worn by the Siren, and she seemed to approach the role with too much care and too little dramatic intensity.

As wide a stylistic margin as



Seduction of the Innocent. Victoria Morgan (The Siren) corrupts The Prodigal Son (Ricardo Bustamante).

they cover, Balanchine's ballets are not so universally popular as one might imagine. What they always seem to do is stimulate growth in the dancers, while revealing strengths and weaknesses that are hidden in the works of other choreographers. Balanchine's *Four Temperaments*, coming later in the season, contains two of the best roles for male dancers in the entire Balanchine repertory. It will be interesting to see the degree to which the SFB men will excel in them.

Kylian's *Forgotten Land* springs from such a seemingly spontaneous movement impulse that we hardly recognize dancers we know well. In Kylian's work they become what Arlene Croce has called a "welded ensemble," taking on the European modern ballet chic of the genre. Notwithstanding a brief metaphysical program note, the forceful

grandeur of the Benjamin Britten *Sinfonia da Requiem* is the guiding inspiration for the work. Music and movement occur in long, startling phrases; the partnering is unusual and spectacular. This terrain takes on seasonal differences: where one is seated in the theater makes a difference in the experience it evokes; casting makes a difference. Most impressive this season were Paul Russell and Natalie Kohn in the tender, amusing fourth duet, and Lauri Cowden

and Tomm Ruud in the second. I loved *Forgotten Land* this year. Its popularity indicates a direction the company should explore further.

★ ★ ★

Highly-publicized modern dancer Molissa Fenley appears with her company next Thursday, April 12, at 8:30. The New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street at Shotwell. For information phone 863-9830. ■

More Quips & Quotes

Armistead Maupin: "Real Beautiful People read books about other BP's only in the privacy of their toilets... If you're truly serious about blending in at the Sonoma Mission Inn... don't get caught with a copy of The Annenberg Leg-

acy, Edie or Little Gloria — Happy at Last. Face it, darling: You should know that dish already."

Maitre D' at the "21": "You can do almost anything to people except inconvenience them."

Woolly ■

STAGE

GAYnor Pride Week with Glitzy Mitzi

by Steve Warren

Mitzi Gaynor fills a theatre with an infectious ease that spreads faster than AIDS. If she's not having the time of her life on stage she's a better actress than anyone ever gave her credit for being (and might even have earned the Academy Award nomination she lays false claim to).

She effects the persona of a simple country girl who tries to be demure but can't quite contain her frivolous side. Then she pokes fun at that by pretending to be a sexpot while letting us know her 30th anniversary is approaching and this is all a front.

At one point in the Act I finale Mitzi preens and poses while her chorus boys lie on their backs and kick their legs in the air (one leg at a time — this is a family show). The last time I saw her, seven years ago, the show was full of these star-saving devices and I thought her dancing days were numbered.

Well, 1977 must have just been a down year for her, because she's back at peak energy. The chorus only has to carry the show while the star's changing from one Bob Mackie creation to another. When she's onstage, she's the hardest-working person there.

Speaking of Mackie, who claims Mitzi as his first celebrity client, he still does well by her. Whether her appearance is the result of makeup, surgery, personal fitness, or a pact with the devil, Mackie packages her well. The first half is all black and

white deco decadence until a touch of yellow turns up in the minstrel number. The second half exhausts the rainbow.

Yes, I said minstrel number. (No blackface, thank God.) There are just so many gimmicks you can use in a show like this, and all of them are hokey. The best you can hope for is that the assembled talent will be able to make it work, and in this case they do — splendidly.

Most of the songs were written before Mitzi, let alone you or I, was born, with a few modern exceptions such as "Abracadabra," "Mr. Roboto" and "Can't Smile Without You." She jokes about the awful songs written for her by the likes of Arlen and Berlin, but goes on to sing some of their better ones. She also jokes about the "gaw-jus" Gay Beverly Hills doctor Michelle Lee referred her to.

The nine-man chorus is attractive, but not enough to divert attention — even mine — from the star. They dance better than the last group I saw her with, or maybe just have better choreography — by Thommie Walsh, assisted by Baayork Lee.

Mitzi Gaynor is the definition of "cute." She talks a lot, but leaves you remembering the music. She's a lot further than I thought from being good "for her age." She's still good, period. ■

The Mitzi Gaynor Show
Golden Gate Theatre
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Ready for Prime-Time?

Gay Variety Show Debuts on Cable Channel 6

Half-Hour Weekly 'Video Magazine' Is Off and Airing

by Brian Jones

Ready or not — and in some ways, it's not — Gay television is rolling, again, in San Francisco. Couldn't Be More Graphic Studio debuted its "Video Magazine" last week on Viacom Cable Channel 6, and will be airing it weekly at least through the Spring.

The half-hour variety-format program will be aired at 11 p.m. Wednesdays through this month, according to producer Tom Rosso.

Last week's debut came after nearly a year's efforts by two companies to get Gay programming back on local television. Viacom signed a contract with

Walter Rowen Associates to produce a program in June 1983, but the idea never got into viewers' homes.

In the Fall, Couldn't Be More Graphic — a video production shop and ad agency at 520 Castro Street — took to the streets with its minicams and began shooting tape for what it hoped would become a local Gay television show.

Almost until air time last week, it was unclear when the show would debut. In late February, Producer Rosso had received a letter from Viacom giving the impression it could be at least six months before the show would be broadcast.

But at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, the tape rolled and Couldn't Be More Graphic was on the air.

The first show demonstrated that the variety format is an ambitious undertaking, one that can gobble up lots of videotape — and camera time, and community events — to simmer down into even a 30-minute program. Thirty minutes might not

seem long, but on television, it's forever and a half. Making it not seem like forever and a half is the trick. So far, the Graphic crew has had some trouble doing that trick very well.

The premiere show led with an interview of Sylvester, an interview done before his big retrospective in early February. That was two months ago, so some of the segment was dated. A "Point of View" editorial-type segment followed, and presidential candidate John B. Anderson talked about the Gay Vote. Here, perhaps, is some of the biggest promise of a Gay TV show: Putting notables on the air, and on the spot, to commit themselves to Gay issues.

A lengthy interview with Supervisor Harry Britt was next. Here, the lack of editing — the too-lengthy monologues about the need for voter registration and the importance Harvey Milk played in the Gay community (Frite! Boring!) — showed itself. Perhaps the biggest challenge was simply filling all that time — and Britt's talking head was the most conve-

nient way to do so.

"Pacific Heights" — "the show too rich for network television" — promises to be the high-point of the show. It's a mostly Gay soap. The premiere only introduced us to the cast of characters, so we will have to visit again later to discuss the plot. But it looks interesting.

Technically, there are two problems. The editing is choppy; it's weird to see Sylvester pointing left, talking, and then in the next instant — jerk! — pointing right. And the cinematography (videography?) is dizzying at times, especially during the too-many pans and sweeps at the beginning of "Pacific Heights."

All these rough edges will likely be polished in coming shows, however. And if the opening show was thin on material, it may be because the Graphic crew is husbanding some good items for coming weeks, as the audience builds.

It is a lively show, and an ambitious project. It deserves to be watched. Don't take my word for it; tune in for yourself next Wednesday at 11 and decide. ■

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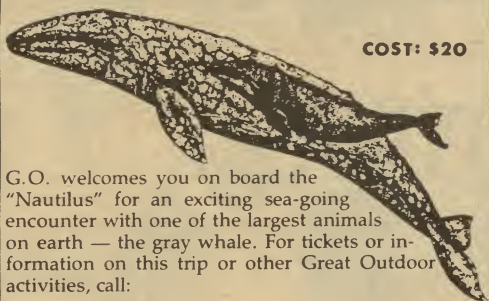
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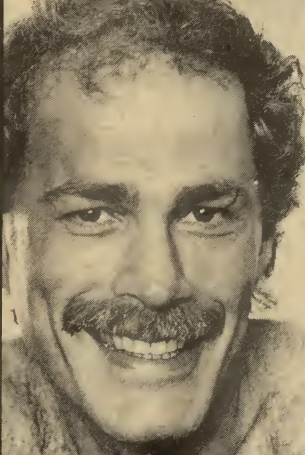
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Photo by Jim Wigler

MUSIC

Gripping Concerto

by Bernard Spunberg

Drama of cosmic proportions gripped me by the balls when Isaac Stern played the Brahms Violin Concerto with Edo de Waart and the San Francisco Symphony at Davies Hall March 30. Stern's personality dominated the performance from the start of the work's long orchestral introduction. Psyching himself up like an athlete, his face grew redder with each measure, and his first notes were like sledgehammer blows. But grandeur is only one aspect of Brahms' mammoth work. Poetry, mystery, and virile high spirits each demand expression, and Stern's large spirit allied to his technical mastery encompassed them all. His white-hot concentration achieved a unity, a consistent intensity of expression that galvanized de Waart and the Symphony. The other musicians rose to Stern's mighty challenge with a performance of

breadth and fire.

De Waart's performance of J.C. Bach's gallant *Symphony in E* for Two Orchestras was graceful — but that's all. De Waart's recordings of music in this style bubble with irresistible rhythmic energy lacking in this pleasant but blah run-through.

Definitely unblah was de Waart's San Francisco premiere of Elliott Carter's *Symphony of Three Orchestras*, inspired in part by Hart Crane's poem, *The Bridge*. Yes, "chill from his rippling rest the seagull's wings" can be heard, but acceptance as a repertory staple requires that the *Symphony* communicate with audiences unfamiliar with Crane's poem, as well as literati willing to study it. Well, I haven't studied the poem, and I find Carter's piece does communicate — magnificently. Listeners willing to forego a tonal center

can hear tunes sweeping, tender, and witty in technicolor orchestrations. Contrasting textures dominate and recede, creating a constantly shifting dialogue. And for all its surface brilliance, the work conveys spiritual content, a sense of exhilaration in full and complete expression of the composer's personal vision. Is my description unforgettably subjective? Probably. But Carter's *Symphony of Three Orchestras* sustains my interest for every moment of its fifteen-minute duration. I am simultaneously dazzled and moved.

Who can comment in depth on the quality of a rendition of an unfamiliar piece in an original, highly-convoluted idiom? Not me. It's possible de Waart and the *Symphony* played lots of wrong notes I didn't notice. But I doubt it. Its performance, admirable in view of its subscribers' consistent hostility towards contemporary music, freed me to concentrate on the *Symphony's* content rather than its difficulty. ■

The Smiths Create Myths

by Peter Keane

Remember the '60's? Rock music was a significant social force, as potent a tool for change as any that existed in that decade. While the strength of rock music has been diluted somewhat since then, there are still musicians who see and utilize that potential beyond the hit parade.

The Smiths are such musicians.

Lead singer/lyricist Morrissey (no first name given) says of the group's crusade, "Popular music seems to affect most everyone, and I think something very substantial can come from it. Its potential is so great! It can virtually change the entire universe." Close your eyes and you'll swear it's 1968.

This piety is not a bad thing, though. A magnificent obsession it may be, but the Smiths are one magnificent band. They can put their money where their mouths are. And judging by their ambiguous, often homoerotic lyrics, their mouths have been in some pretty . . . interesting places.

This quartet hails from England and has garnered the sort of praise usually reserved for transcendent experiences and divine visitations. (To say the British rock press is frequent and indiscriminate with its praise is being polite.) The Smiths have

yet to prove themselves to the American public — their subtle, Velvet Underground-inspired music, coupled with lyrics of sophisticated passion, are not what we've been MTV'd to death with. Sex, too — Morrissey has lots to say about sex, and love, and power, and loss, and . . . well, significant things.

Their magic is that they can say so much by saying so little. Like this from "Reel Around the Fountain": "You can pin and mount me like a butterfly/But take me to the haven of your bed/Was something that you never said" or "I could have been wild and I could have been free/But nature played this trick on me" or "But I don't want a lover/I just want to be tied to the back of your car." There's eerie poetry in this guy's mind, and he

(Continued on page 31)



The Smiths

SPORTS & FITNESS

G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

Kokpit Upends Trax in League Opener

Paced by Rod Bradford's booming home run, the Kokpit defeated Trax, 12-3, in the first-ever night game in Gay Softball League history.

A crowd of 500 was treated to Grady Clark's rendition of the National Anthem and cheered heartily as Senator Milton Marks and Pat Norman threw out the traditional "first ball."

The biggest winner of the evening was the AIDS Foundation, which will receive \$500 from money collected during the game by the Village Softball Team. Many thanks to friends, fans, and league members for your generosity.

In other league action, the defending champions, Pendulum Pirates, opened with an impressive 21-5 win over Rawhide

II. Chris Jensen and Tommy Lee paced the Pirates to victory in this one. Also, nice recruiting job, Art Jackson!

The Vagabond returned to the league and gave top contender Moby Dick a good battle before falling, 11-7. Pat Conlon's Pilsner Inn Penguins unloaded early and often in downing the Ramrod Rookies, 35-5. Skip Anderson's powerful Ambush showed little mercy as Cafe Sn. Marcos fell, 29-0. Newcomer Chaps outslugged the DeLuxe in a wild one, 13-11. Chaps got off to a big early lead and then held off the DeLuxe onslaught. In the best-played game of the day, The Village scored two runs in the 7th inning to eke out a 4-3 win over Googie's. Bob Smith was the winning pitcher, but Rennis Woods was hardly a loser as he looked in old Sutter's Mill form.



Tony Candelaria of Chaps slides into third base during the Chaps vs. DeLuxe Gay Softball League game last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

Monday night, April 9, at 5 p.m., the Village Softball Team is having an Academy Awards Party to benefit the team. Stop by and enter the contest with a chance to win \$100 and several other prizes.

Week #2 finds the GSL at Balboa Park at Ocean and San Jose Avenues.

10:00 a.m. - DeLuxe vs. Pilsner Inn

11:45 a.m. - Rawhide/Moby Dick and Googie's/Vagabond

1:30 p.m. - Phone Booth/Chaps and Kokpit/Ramrod

3:15 p.m. - Ambush/Pendulum and Trax/Village

STANDINGS

Chaps	1-0
Moby Dick	1-0
Ambush	1-0
Pendulum	1-0
Phone Booth	0-0
DeLuxe	0-1
Rawhide II	0-1
Kokpit	1-0
Pilsner Inn	1-0
Village	1-0
Googie's	0-1
Trax	0-1
Cafe Sn. Marcos	0-1
Ramrod Rookies	0-1



Michael Strickland of Chaps at bat during the Chaps vs. DeLuxe softball game last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

Surprising Response

Gay Jocks Are Up For New Football League

Dozens of Players Swell Ranks of Gay Gridiron

by Paul Trefzger

Steve Stapleton is proud to announce that as a result of the article in the *Bay Area Reporter* (3/22/84) he continues to receive a large and steady response from prospective football players. So great, in fact, has been the interest, that he has scheduled a special "get acquainted" game for 11 AM Sunday, April 8, at Douglass Park, located at Douglass and 27th Streets.

To date, he has heard from approximately 40 people ranging from "one guy who has never played football, never thrown a ball and wants to learn" to "an amateur soccer player who tried to organize one (team/league) himself." Calls have come from up and down the peninsula, San Jose, Oakland, and "as far away as Pittsburgh."

Stapleton laughed as he related that "some guys thought

that we were more organized than we are and asked when they could 'register' and when our meetings were. I said, 'Meetings are no fun.' Of course we will be having meetings, but the emphasis is on fun and football. I want to make it clear that I get off on the idea of getting people together outside for a good time, rather than to find the biggest, baddest, meanest player. I'd like to get people out there who never even imagined themselves as

playing."

Teams will likely be chosen by letting players line up and then using the odd/even selection method. The game will probably be "one or two handkerchief" (meaning that the defensive team removes the ball carrier's exposed handkerchief(s) to stop the play) rather than "light tackle."

Stapleton definitely would like to see spectators there too.

"Guys can come to cheer their boyfriend on to a touchdown." He added that the Valley Girl cheerleaders (male) will also be there and are also recruiting. ■



Steve Stapleton (Photo: Rink)

\$229 SEATTLE MEMORIAL DAY BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Price includes Air, 3 days Sheraton Hotel and Transfers. For info Bob Austin, 931-3377.

Wien Air Alaska

Marvin Lewis Shipley

In San Francisco on March 25, 1984: Lover of Weldon Washburn; Dearest son of Carmelita Shipley; Beloved brother of Elaine Fredianelli.

Mr. Shipley was a member and Past Officer of the San Francisco Frontrunners. Friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service, 2 p.m., April 7, at the Pride Foundation Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to your favorite charity.

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CSL Goes Hawaiian

by Chuck Smith

So successful was last year's Honolulu trip that the GSL will again be represented in a softball challenge with the Hamburger Mary's "Mary's Meats" team. Like last year, the Phone Booth Operators team has obtained an attractive package deal, and it is open to any individual or team that wishes to join us. (Last year, we actually had 40 people with five GSL teams represented!)

The trip will cover six days and five nights, departing SFO

on Wednesday, May 23 and returning Monday (Memorial Day), May 28. The total price of \$392, covers round-trip airfare by Northwest Orient 747, five nights lodging (double occupancy) at the Waikiki Resort Hotel — 1/2 block from Waikiki Beach — and transportation to and from both airports. While there, several special events in addition to softball have been planned by Hamburger Mary's which will make this a very enjoyable trip. Deadline for payment is April 16, and you may call me at 621-3788 to make reservations or obtain additional information.



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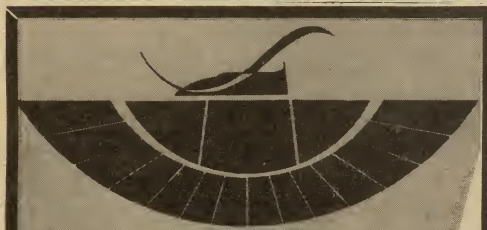
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SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES

TEAM STANDINGS

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 18 of 24 - as of 3/25/84)

1. King & Her Queens	20	4
2. Battery Point	13	11
3. Fish and Dicks	13	11
4. All Stars	9 1/2	14 1/2
5. Japantown Bombers	9	15
6. Number 4	7 1/2	16 1/2

MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 20 of 28 - as of 3/19/84)

1. Play With It, Ltd.	19	5
2. Porky's (1st)	17	7
3. Number 16 (2nd)	15	9
4. Village Sluts	15	9
5. Knotters	14	10
6. Bad Boys	14	10
7. PJ and the Bears	13	11
8. Ramrod	13	11
9. Easy Pickups	13	11
10. 22nd St. Gang (4th)	13	11
11. Vagabond Tramps	13	7
12. Dynasty (3rd)	12	12
13. Rick's Gold Room	12	12
14. Phoenix Phirebirds	12	12
15. Phoenix Phantoms	12	12
16. Harlepins	11	13
17. Obelisk-Crystal Ball	11	13
18. Deluxe	10	14
19. Gay Sports	10	14
20. Rawhide Rawkettes	9	15
21. Fever	7	17
22. Lucky Strikes	7	17
23. The Raw Hides	6	18
24. Sounds Incredible	4	16

TUESDAY LEAGUE (Week 28 of 34 - as of 3/20/84)

1. Ethel	32	12
2. Half & Half-C of C	32	12
3. Ezy Pick-Ups (1st)	30	14
4. The Extremes	29	15
5. Late Night Rollers	26 1/2	17 1/2
6. The Misfits	26 1/2	17 1/2
7. Doris Daze	26	18
8. Deadwood	26	18
9. The 5 Pickups	22	22
10. Ruthless	19	25
11. Charlie's Angels	17	27
12. Pinheads	17	27
13. One Plus Four	17	27
14. Quick & Easy	17	27
15. R and P	17	23
16. Univ MD All-Stars	14	26
17. Team 12	14	30
18. Team 13	6	38

WEDNESDAY LEAGUE (Week 25 of 30 - as of 3/21/84)

1. High Gear	30	10
2. Chiquita's Bananas	29	11
3. Golden Gate MCC	29	11
4. Stud City	27	13
5. Brunswick Beauties	27	13
6. Image Leather (3rd)	26	14
7. Mike's Ice Crm (1st)	24	16
8. Ballers	24	16
9. Pin Heads (2nd)	20	20
10. Thing	20	20
11. Warlocks	16	24
12. GGMCC II	15	25
13. SRA (4th)	14	26
14. Mirage	14	26

15. Station Masters	14	26
16. Gutter Girls	12	28
17. Jugs Liquors	8	32
18. PAPA	8	32

THURSDAY LEAGUE (Week 27 of 32 - as of 3/22/84)

1. Pendulum	34	10
2. Vagabond Tramps	32	12
3. Chief (3rd)	31	13
4. Spare Parts	28 1/2	15 1/2
5. Pilsner Kingpins	28	16
6. Twin Peaks #2	24	20
7. Transfer #1	22	22
8. Ball-Busters	21 1/2	22 1/2
9. Gold Room	21	23
10. Answer (1st)	20	24
11. Pendulum III	20	24
12. Twin Peaks #1 (2nd)	17	27
13. Perfect Job	17	27
14. Alleycats	16	28
15. Pendulum #1	14	30
16. Number 15	0	44

FRIDAY LEAGUE (Week 15 of 22 - as of 3/23/84)

1. Team 08	34 1/2	25 1/2
2. Team 04	32 1/2	27 1/2
3. Team 03	32	28
4. Team 06	29 1/2	30 1/2
5. Team 02	29 1/2	30 1/2
6. LC & LB's Bees	29	31
7. Team 01	28 1/2	31 1/2
8. Team 07	24 1/2	35 1/2

Bowling scores compiled by Jerry R. De Young.

SF POOL ASSOCIATION

TEAM STANDINGS AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

DIVISION I

Pendulum Pirates	57-39 .593
White Swallow Storm	54-42 .562
Maud's	49-47 .510
Pilsner Doughboys	56-56 .500
Arena Hellbreds	47-49 .489
DeLuxe Rebels	53-59 .473
Village Tribe	45-51 .468
Brig Immates	41-55 .427
Pipeline Deaf	35-77 .312

DIVISION III

Stallion Stampede	62-34 .645
Macante's MARTYRS	66-46 .589
Village Knights	59-53 .526
Bear Shots	49-47 .510
Febe's Snow	48-48 .500
Pendulum Chaos	46-50 .479
Arena Centurions	45-51 .468
Cstro Sta. Identification	45-67 .401
Academy Plebes	37-59 .385

TOP TWENTY

R. Peterson (Febe's)	15-0 1.000
Mr. B (Rainbow)	14-2 .875
K. Stephens (Peg's)	23-5 .821
E. Z. (DeLuxe)	16-4 .800
P. Fleury (Febe's)	19-5 .791
A. Ravena (Brig)	19-5 .791
C. Lundberg (Arena)	14-4 .777
C. Arguello (Rainbow)	13-4 .764
B. Kelly (DeLuxe)	13-4 .764
R. Moore (DeLuxe)	16-5 .761
C. Bradley (Stallion)	12-4 .750
S. Abramo (Rainbow)	17-6 .739
O. Bubar (DeLuxe)	13-5 .722
B. Von Prillwitz (Vlg)	20-8 .714
B. Kazee (Febe's)	15-6 .714
D. Henderson (Rnbw)	10-4 .714
R. McKay (Stallion)	17-7 .708
D. Timko (DeLuxe)	17-7 .708
G. Miller (Febe's)	12-5 .705
L. Duncan (Macante's)	19-8 .703

DIVISION II

Febe's	74-22 .770
Rainbow	78-34 .696
Stallion Steeds	58-38 .604
Chaps Outlaws	55-41 .572
Castro Station Express	55-57 .491
White Swallow Wreckers	47-49 .489
Macante's Moondancers	43-69 .383
Pk Bwl Parallel Pockets	35-61 .364
Peg's Pugs	30-66 .312

DIVISION IV

DeLuxe Spare Parts	79-33 .705
Arena Warriors	56-40 .583
Brig Guards	52-44 .541
Peg's Promises	58-54 .517
Pilsner Ltd.	56-56 .500
Academy Cadets	43-53 .447
Bear Claws	41-55 .427
Maud's Squad	39-57 .406
Daly City Rough Riders	31-65 .322

Statewide Bowling Tourney Rolls Into Park Bowl

by Jerry R. De Young

San Francisco hosted the first annual Tri-City Bowling Tournament. This imaginative creation of local bowling personality Mal Garcia presented the dual enticements of providing an exciting day of friendly bowling competition combined with the possibility of enriching one's coffer (who can resist that combination?). Cash prizes were awarded to the eight highest total-pin-counts, including 80% handicaps.

Fiver-person Lesbian and Gay

Frontrunners

San Francisco Frontrunners will meet Sunday, April 8 at 10 AM at the North Windmill in Golden Gate Park for its weekly Sunday Scenic Run. The run can be anywhere from one to five miles.

The club also sponsors Thursday Fun Runs (meet at 6 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park), Saturday Fun Runs (meet at 10 AM at the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park), and Saturday Long Distance Training Runs (10 AM, call for meeting location). For more information call 346-3718 or 621-6268.

teams came from as far away as Los Angeles to take part, and apparently a good time was had by all — many bowlers competed in more than one of the three shifts.

Here are the top eight finishers and their total pins:

1. Monday Community (SF)	3169
2. Damifino (Sacto)	3117
3. Jpntwn Bowlg Bmhrs (SF)	3068
4. Bumper Pumpers (SF)	3033
5. Chequita's Hags (SF)	3018
6. Can We Talk (SF)	2991
7. Japantown-PWIL (SF)	2991
8. Mike's Ice Cream (SF)	2981

Hiking Club

The San Francisco Hiking Club will sponsor a car camping trip to the Pinnacles National Monument State Park this weekend, April 6 to 8. The park is located about three hours south of San Francisco near Hollister. There will be campfire gatherings on Friday and Saturday nights and a seven hour hike Saturday. For more information call Bob Jones at 626-2512.

The club will also sponsor a day hike to remote Marin beaches Sunday April 8. Meet for carpooling at 8 AM at MacDonald's on the corner of Stanyan and Haight Streets.

NAGAAA Signals Start of 1984 Gay Softball Season

Houston, TX — The official start of the 1984 Gay Softball Season was signaled March 1 by the spring meeting of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. Seventeen member cities sent delegates to the four-day conference in Houston. NAGAAA represents thousands of Lesbian and Gay softball players from all around the United States and Canada.

The agenda for the meeting centered on exchanging ideas and developing support for the individual softball leagues, as well as establishing policies and ensuring success for the Gay Softball World Series. This year in late August, Houston will play host to the Eighth Annual Gay Softball World Series. The series is a competition among the championship teams from each member city: Atlanta, Birmingham, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle, Southern New England, and Toronto. The purpose of NAGAAA and its member leagues is to provide opportunities in sports for Gay people to come together in a positive environment of participation, commitment and fun.

B.A.R. BAZAAR

BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT X-RATED BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT X-RATED BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT X-RATED BAY AREA REPORTER SUPPLEMENT



BLACK LASHES

The Upstroke

KARL STEWART

Grand Ma Mere was honored in the grand style Saturday. Empress I Jose, the Nightingale of Montgomery Street, drew an elegant covey of friends and admirers to a glamorous banquet to toast his more than quarter century of entertainment, Gay freedom fighting and community support. Jose began as one of the first popular female impersonators to achieve city wide acclaim in a "tourist trap" (Jose's words) called The Black Cat, which was a popular bohemian nightclub of the early 60 s. Jose

Shand, all gave us tributes. The coin that gave us a passport into the days for which Jose is fondest known was his friend Michelle (Closet Ball - Robert Michaels Prod.). He gave an incisive look into the good times, the wisdom, the camp and the tears.

The evening raised more than \$3,500 for the Gay Band to travel to LA for a National Gay Band Concert in June.

Later than evening Febe's hosted the rowdies of the So/M and MC community. The occa-

30 to 40 Photog Kent Schooler was edged out of first place by Walt Christom (Skip's other half and the resident "Chest"). Up 'til now each of these legs held six or less contestants. When the real daddies were brought out (40 to death) there were 18 men competing: John Shubat was judged hottest in the land by the panel.

Dick Wheeler (with his oils) will be joined by his buddy Ed Burns (with his great photography of straight men at work) and will open JC's week-long Third Anniversary party for the Eagle. These So/M men will open Thursday, April 12. The ICF will hold a "Brunch Party" Sunday April 15th from 3-6 PM in the Patio. It's a beer bust and feed for a discounted price of five bucks. This is in anticipation of the much talked about Casualty Capers, and the three directors have gone out and drafted everybody from Jim Cvitanich to the BC Cloggers for this one. The competition is stiff. I hear there'll be some real Southern Seandles that evening (what color lashes????).

This weekend meet the newly-formed California Eagles MC at Chaps (???), tonight 9 PM to midnight. They have announced their first run (road trip) to Sacramento April 14 and 15. If you sign up before the 13th, \$20 will bring you the basic road trip (bridge tolls, a meal both days and beer bust Saturday), \$40 will include hotel, double occupancy and \$55 for a single. If you sign up at the kick-off Saturday at noon at Febe's, it'll all cost \$5 more.

The Constantines are planning a road trip also: Saturday 4/8 at Febe's will see the men off at 10 AM (yes I agree; it's hard to fathom any of 'em up that early).

Sunday the CMC will mount its annual Tax Break Run. It's an all day adventure that also begins at Febe's at noon. Donation of \$3.99 includes button and admission to the PM Beer Bust at the Eagle at 3:30 PM. This run will take you all over So/M collecting fictitious tax info through bike and buddy events as well as people events (relay races). If your figures add up correctly, you may get a date with Prez David Sarathain (who knows). The CMC is also beginning a book drive for a ward SB Library — tax emption for new or used paperback or hard cover books. Prize for the CMC's Run Theme Contest (come as a broken pencil). Look for The Studstore's Steven Smith with leather as a prize.

The CMC voted in some of So/M's favorite men as prospectives: The Ramrod's Michael Bowman and Body-of-silver-builder Joe Tolbe.

Bud McGinnis (manager of Folstom St. Hotel) video taped the South of Market Contest and will make VHS or Betamax copies for you with all the profits going to the AIDS Fund. Phone 552-3390 (9 AM to 4 PM) for more info.

CROSSED LASHES

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence is a band of gentlemen who have combined traditional street theater, gorilla theater and social/political activism to become one of the gay societies most bizarre set of spokeswomen /men. Their technique of cross



Jose (right, with the balloons) at the tribute in his honor last weekend. With Jose are Gardner Pond (L) and Ed Emond. (Photo: Rink)

dressing and making fun of a serious problem, thereby pointing the way to the answer, has been a San Francisco tradition from the time of Norton. Why any group that elevates Bette Midler to their station of Sainte Bette the Devine (upon her own request) can't be all bad.

I mentioned earlier that Nicole Murray was in town for Jose's big night; it seems the (united??) Imperial Courts of Southern California has circulated a press release, here and there abouts, reviling the good sisters for having anything to do

with political matters. "We encourage the Sisters to continue their good work in fundraising and social services field, which they, as we, have more expertise in."

I don't know about you, but Sister Boom Boom's bid for Supe was one of the funnest protest campaigns in some time. Not only was Boom Boom informed and articulate; she pointed out some of the city government's glaring discrepancies in serving the Gay Community. When a clown points

(Continued on next page)



Trixie Trash (Photo: R. Pruzan)

was also one of the first Gay men in the nation to run for public office (supervisor of SF).

This effort brought forth accolades from as far away as special guest Empress Nicole Murray, the articulate, long-reigning monarch of San Diego. The city government too responded with praise and appreciation: Larry Eppinette emceed as well as read a letter of commendation from his boss Mayor Feinstein. Senator Milton Marks followed with greetings from the State, but President Ronald Reagan couldn't make it. Many of the city's Gay institutions (some of whom owe at least part of their existence to Jose's fundraising and personal generosity) approached the throne with gracious laurels: Namely the presidents of both The SF Band Foundation and GGBA (the Bobbsey Twins - Lester and Lori). Tom Poret of CRIR together with the Evening's hosts — Bob Cramer, Hector, Duke Armstrong and Bond

sion was the installation of new officers and 18th Anniversary of the Barbary Coast Motorcycle Club. Stepping down as prez was Bob Ro. replaced by Chuck E (who took on the Management of the Men's Room this week also). Taking Empress Remy's spot as VeePee is the official lady-in-waiting and Imperial Sceptor receiver Gene Forest. Chuck's hunky blond lover Jason Garret will join him in service to his club brothers as Road Captain. Also during the evening's long celebration, Ed Wilson joined the club officially as the baby.

Dick Wheeler restored a Febe's tradition the previous evening with the "Man Contest." Now this one is just for fun. You can really tell the sort of man Febe's men like. The contest is run with categories for under 30 — where David John took the trophy. David looks handsome with his sexy balding head and beard; more like a daddy than most daddies. For men

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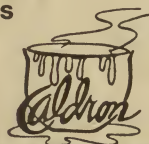
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BLACK LASHES

(Continued from previous page)

out your mistake, suddenly everybody notices. Apparently the queen of So/Cal doesn't like protest politics. I'll have "Status Quo" as an entre, waiter.

Well, the Sisters are doing some fundraising in LA soon. They and the SF Gay band will be participating in a big basket ballgame at Fairfax High, between the SF Gay Game II team and LA team on April 14th. Sadie Sadie and Sr. Shamel 2001 will be leading the cheers. That seems safe enough. Sr. Sadie also will soon be appearing in Pacific Heights, the Gay Soap on Couldn't Be More Graphic's video magazine on Castro St.

KNIGHT-EMS

Moby Dick has long been a bastion of Gay Photoart; this, largely by the effort of manager/photographer Scott Goldschmidt. His annual photo "click off" competition has become a coveted prize for any lens jockey's wall. This week Scott left Moby Dick, "just because it's time," and in his wake left one of the better color photo shows on the walls by Howard

Grant (you may know him better as the architect of the Muni/Metro stations). One can certainly see the way he constructs his images also. Sensuous and warm, Grant explores the classic form of the male, in space, in relationship to form larger and more powerful than himself. Mike, (Mr. Grant's model throughout) shows his best assets in a set of more erotic frames on the upper deck, many in "Duo" image format using b/w flipped images in tandem with his color. This is a consistently high quality showing. Howard Grant is obviously a perfectionist. This is the ideal legacy for Scott's departing shot.

★ ★ ★

The Coits are investing their "queen" (not that they have only one, mind you); Queen Trixie Trash, de South Shore, protectress of the State Line and her perpetual husband of state King Monte Reddick, will be soundly crowned at the Mint Monday, following the Academy Awards. You can watch the Awards there beginning at 6 PM. What's more, you can watch Trixie get drunk at the Men's room from 7 to 9 PM for her birthday Friday, April 6. I feel a campaign coming on.

Other Awards parties will be at the Village, the Men's Room, Castro Station and the Pilsner. So/M you can see the big show on the big screen at Chaps, enjoy a buffet at the Ramrod or in the Polk area, stop in at the Giraffe for their big screen. They will all be featuring drink specials and lots of camping.

We hear Ron Pearson wore turquoise and red at his hanky party last weekend.

The Kokpit is showing a set of stained glass windows from Robert Michaels productions. The reason is the Closet Ball has headquartered itself there and has tickets available for the show on April 28. Rumors are flying about which popular So/M bartender will mount the stage that night.

Ever notice how clever some of the window designs on Castro or Polk can be? One of the designers in demand is Michael Barnes; his work is on display at Headlines on both of those streets.

Keep it together. See ya in the skins.

K. Stewart



Winners of Febe's "The Man" Contest: (l. to r.) Walt Christom (30 to 40 yrs.), David John (under 30), and John Shubat (40-plus).

Karl's Calendar

Friday, 4/6: Trixie Trash Birthday, Men's Room, 7 to 9 PM
Warlocks Open Meeting, The Eagle Patio Bar, 8 PM.

Photographic Narratives, work of Nina Glazer, Nathan Hart Gallery, 437 Hayes at Gough, 6 to 10 PM.

Saturday, 4/7: Constantines Road Trip, departure, Febe's 10 AM.

Sunday, 4/8: Tax Break Run, host CMC, kickoff: Febe's - noon \$3.99. Includes Bike, buddy and people events, Beer Bust at Eagle 3:30 PM, Ward 5B

Library Book Drive, Grand Prize leather from Steve at The Studstore.

Monday, 4/9: Investiture, Queen Trixie & King Monte of So/Shore following Academy Awards Show at The Mint.

Academy Awards Viewing, Men's Room, Castro Station, The Village, Pilsner (Balloting and cash prizes: feel, The Mint (Investiture), Febe's, Chaps (big screen), Ramrod (Buffet) — all begin at 6 PM. Most will include drink specials.

Tuesday, 4/10: Square Dancing, S.F. Eagle, 7 to 10 PM. Advanced class (beginners on Thursday, same time).

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Steve Dobbins Snags Emmy Nomination

Steve Dobbins, San Francisco producer, director and playwright, has been nominated by the Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for Outstanding Individual Achievement in directing for *The People versus Dan White*, the KQED docu-drama that aired locally last November. Based on his play, *The Dan White Incident*, *The People versus Dan White*, will air nationally on all PBS stations on a yet-to-be-determined date. Dobbins also served as writer and co-producer for the KQED venture.

Currently he is collaborating with LA writer Paul Barnes on the screenplay *The Dan White Incident*, again adapted from his original work which premiered in San Francisco last March, and recently closed a critically-successful run at the Pan Andreas Theatre in Los Angeles. Joe Hamilton's Production Company, best known for producing the television series and specials featuring Hamilton's wife, Carol Burnett, has been actively interested in this project since 1978, and approached Dobbins to work with Barnes after seeing the LA production. According to Dobbins, a finished script is due in three weeks. Whether the screenplay is slated for a feature film or a television special is not yet known.

"The screenplay will focus less on the problems during Dan White's trial," says Dobbins, "and more on the political and social attitudes in San Francisco prior to the violent killings of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk." ■

Have Tune, Will Carry

Can you carry a tune? Well, carry it over to 1350 Waller Street this Wednesday evening at 7 PM and share it with the SF Lesbian/Gay Chorus. One of the oldest and largest such mixed choruses in the nation, the group is seeking to expand its membership in all sections: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, as well as non-singing staff members.

The chorus, recently celebrating its fourth birthday, began with some ten nervous pioneers and grew to more than one hundred singers. The past year has been a challenging one as the group chose a new artistic director and transferred sponsorship from Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc. to Capp Street. The group survived this process in fine form. Its approximately

forty singers wowed audiences at December's Holiday Concerts and most recently at the Cable Car Awards Ceremony, February 5. The Lesbian/Gay community continues its strong support of this Chorus as the singers are certainly a source of pride to themselves and their friends.

Artistic Director Matthew O'Grady has a musically-rich and demanding program planned for the upcoming May Concert. More voices are needed to give the music the power and range it deserves. He is hoping to get more new members by the end of March so that everyone can prepare adequately.

The SF Lesbian/Gay Chorus rehearses each Wednesday night from 7-9 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller St., near Haight and Masonic. To join, simply come to rehearsal, or call Recruitment Director Michael at 431-4671 for more information. ■



Oooo Baby. Partygoers relax outside last weekend's Butch-Femme Soiree, held at the S.F. Women's Building to benefit the Lyon-Martin Clinic. (Photo: Rink)

'La Cage' Benefit

More than 1,000 tickets have been sold for the first San Francisco performance of *La Cage aux Folles* at the Golden Gate Theater Tuesday, May 29. The evening is a benefit for nine Gay charity organizations.

The Board of Directors of the Cable Car Awards are now working to make this a gala community event. People arriving at the theatre will be greeted by music from the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. A platform is being erected in front of the theatre on Golden Gate Avenue to welcome those attending.

Following the performance there will be a celebrity champagne reception in the rotunda of City Hall. Entertainment currently signed for the party includes the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus and the Gay band. In addition to complimentary champagne, several full size bars are being set. Rikki Streicher, owner of Maud's and Amelia's said profits from the bar service will be given to the 1986 Gay Games.

La Cage aux Folles opened August 21 of last year at the Palace Theatre in New York. The San Francisco edition will have new costumes and sets and will be the first presentation out-

side of the Broadway engagement. Walter Charles is slated to perform the role of Albin, created on Broadway by George Hearn.

Tickets are available only by mail order through a coupon which has appeared in past editions of the *Bay Area Reporter*. Primary recipients from the opening night benefit are The San Francisco AIDS Fund, the Lesbian Rights Project, the Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders of Operation Concern and the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights "Can We Talk" brochure, produced with the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. ■

Mexicali Bound

DICK WALTERS

Fiesta! . . . Win a round trip for two to Puerto Vallarta, which includes hotel and airfare . . . a Google's Softball Team fundraiser . . . donations only \$1.00 . . . you can get tickets from any bartender at Google's. (Cash in lieu of trip, \$750.)

The Arena's Bare Chest Contest is Thursday, April 12, and it starts at 9 p.m. Yours truly will be there that night . . . no, not as a contestant but just to admire some of the "hunks" and to have fun with Mr. Marcus. This is

truly a hot event, so don't miss it.

Rumor has it that the beautiful Ann-Margret will be in the audience the opening night of *La Cage aux Folles* . . . this is on Tuesday, May 29, and is a special benefit . . . tickets are going fast and some sections are already sold out . . . the Cable Car Awards Committee should be thanked for putting this event together.

Overheard at the White Swallow: "Lucy acts like she just invented sex and can't wait to

spread it around."

Noticed that the old Landmark on Turk Street has been posted and it will soon be reopened by Gil, so you know that it'll be a hot and popular bar.

Lenny's Chez Mollet still serves about the finest prime rib dinner in town and in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Congratulations to the Kokpit for winning the opening game against Trax at last Saturday's season opener for the Gay Softball League . . . sorry, Cha Cha.

Understand that Bob Paulson and Bob Cramer and his Peter are going to be opening *TWO* more flower stands in the very near future . . . Hope you don't stop cutting hair, Bob — where will I go?

The Sausalito Inn is still one of the nicest places to go for a great cocktail . . . just take the ferry over to Sausalito, and when you get off it is the first saloon that you can hit . . . always a fun crowd — right, Jimmy Stapleton?

Remember: Casualty Capers 1984 at California Hall is April 21 and tickets are only \$8 . . . this is one of the better events that you'll see this year, as it has been for many years past.

It seems as if Dolly Dale of Polk Gulch fame has a new and hot romance going, and Dolly won't even have to change the monogram on the towels, as his initial is 'D' . . . nice pickin's, Dolly, and I'll take the pick of the litter, unless Bobby Tanguay beats me to it.

You can dance every night at 2140 Market to some great sounds . . . also, you'll find that cute bartender (Bob Cramer's) Peter on the plank and he does a great job.

If you like great jazz, try the Baybrick Inn on Folsom at 8th on Sundays from 4 'til 6 'cause they feature the Bay Area's best live jazz.

The Gate at Pine and Jones is now open at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and they have the popular Joe on the plank to serve you in his own style . . . if you haven't been to the Gate recently, you'll be surprised at the fabulous decor . . . and they still are promising to have dinners and brunch shortly. Hi, Paul.

Denis Quilley

(Continued from page 22)

Danny La Rue has long been popular with the English masses as a female impersonator, but Quilley was not surprised that he failed miserably when he tried recently to play the leading role in *Hello, Dolly!* "Danny is moderately talented in songs and patter and makes a very beautiful, glamorous 'woman' when he's dressed up; but he always throws in little winks and things to say, 'Relax, folks. It's really just me, good old Danny, in here.'"

"Well, when you're playing a character, actually trying to be believed as a woman for an entire evening, you can't do that. His safety valve was gone."

On the other hand, Quilley says he appreciates "the element

of fantasy in cross-dressing" and finds it "off-putting — from an artistic, not a sexual perspective" — when at the end of a drag show the performers pull off their wigs to show that they're really men. If they've been able to sustain the illusion that long, he feels, they shouldn't spoil it.

"There are two streams of drag in England," Quilley enlightens us further. "There's the butch school, the 'pantomime dame' (just short of genderfuck, comic impersonations of dowdy dowagers who are not very feminine to begin with); and the more serious type who try actually looking like girls." Terri Dennis' attempts obviously fall in the former category.

Americans have seen — though scarcely noticed — Denis Quilley in such films as

Murder on the Orient Express, *Evil Under the Sun* and *Anne of the Thousand Days*; and on television in *Masada* and *The Avengers*. His last stage appearance here was 20 years ago in *Irma la Douce*, which he brought to San Francisco on tour after nine months on Broadway.

Among his favorite stage roles, in addition to *Privates on Parade*, Quilley lists *National Theatre productions of The Front Page* and *Long Day's Journey into Night*, the latter with Laurence Olivier; and *Sweeney Todd*, which was "the hardest . . . physically and vocally."

It is unlikely that Quilley will ever play another character like Terri Dennis. He offers feeble excuses about not wanting to repeat himself, but ultimately

acknowledges the irony that a Shakespearean actor can play any number of kings without fear of typecasting — but let him play more than one "queen" and he's marked for life.

As antiquated as Terri may seem to us, Quilley prefers him to many of the Gays he sees today: "When I was a kid in the theatre," he says, "the Gay scene was very gentle . . . Now, especially in America, it's all bulging T-shirts and big Burt Reynolds moustaches . . . It seems aggressive and violent . . . frightening . . . intimidating." He says he "can understand the move to macho" to change our image as helpless victims, but he feels we've carried it too far.

Perhaps, if we can appreciate his attempt to be "a) truthful and b) affectionate" in portraying

Terri Dennis, *Privates on Parade* will improve Denis Quilley's image and increase his visibility in America.

S. Warren

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Smiths Create Myths

(Continued from page 26)

conveys it in delicate yet powerful ways.

"When we entered the whole thing I really thought it was time for very fundamental language to be used. I always find that the most powerful words are the most fundamental ones . . . it wasn't enough to employ the usual pop terminology."

He certainly doesn't. The sentiments expressed are light years beyond the "usual" ones of "you are mine," "Hand in Glove," one of the debut lp's more panoramic songs, details the exhilaration of being with a lover while simultaneously knowing it won't last:

The good life is out there, somewhere
So stay on my arm, you little charmer
But I know my luck too well
and I'll probably never see you again.

The British have caused quite a row over what they feel is the Smiths' most overtly Gay song, "This Charming Man." It

seems, in an ambiguous way, to tell the story of a young man picked up by same after his bicycle tire goes flat out in the countryside:

Then in this charming car
this charming man

Why pamper life's complexities
When the leather runs smooth
on the passenger's seat?

I would go out tonight
but I haven't got a stitch to wear
This man said, "It's gruesome
that someone so handsome should care."

Handsome and charming are not your basic heterosexual words. But at the same time, Morrissey is maddeningly coy about the homosexual, or at least homosensual, content of many of his songs: "Sometimes . . . I'm satisfied (with the way people see me), but then other days I'm quite horrified. I hate being misquoted, because I take interviews very seriously, and I also hate this 'festive faggot' thing, which seems to come through, because people listen to 'This Charming Man' and think no further than what anyone would premise. I hate than angle, and it's surprising that the Gay press has harped on that more than anything else."

Not really, dear. While Morrissey is being vague about gender and preference, it's possible to interpret the songs in a more specifically Gay context. We can relate to the message of love and sex they posit. Consider the competition. I mean, for all his camping about, does anyone really identify with Boy George? And those former bisexuals of yesteryear, David Bowie and Lou Reed — the less said about them, the better. The Smiths write about situations we've all been in, however. They're brainy working class lads with poetic leanings and sexual politics that ooze out between the lines.

As added icing on the cake, it just so happens they've recorded a nearly perfect debut lp that revives the ghost of the Velvet Underground (yes, you've heard this before, and will undoubtedly hear it again, but take my word for it. This is the Real Thing.) even down to the Warholian cover art, a photograph of Joe Dallesandro's torso. This music shimmers with beauty. At first listen, *The Smiths* is a simple record. But simplicity can be deceiving.

So it seems as if this band has bitten off more than it can chew

However, the common denominator in all the works was that of genuine, human experience. And the sharing of that experience made one feel not only proud to be Gay, but also much more comfortable with the inevitability of growing older.

GLOE is funded by a grant from the San Francisco Commission on the Aging and in part, by the GGBA Foundation. It provides a range of services for Lesbians and Gay men over the age of 60 who live in San Francisco. For further information, contact Stafford Buckley at 626-7000.

WHO?

After all those tricks were duly laid,
After all that fucking practice,
The most impression that he made
Was the one upon the mattress.

by Woolly

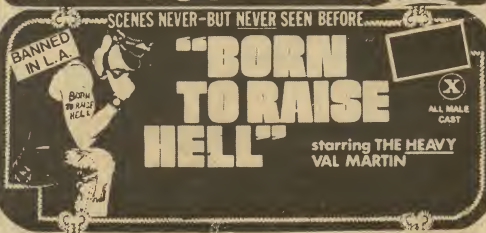
Seniors' Reading a Success

by Ray Ankrum

Eight senior Gay men from the writing workshop sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders of Operation Concern read their selected works to an enthusiastic full room at the Valencia Rose on March 25. Master of ceremonies, screenwriter Robert Sidney, kept the pace upbeat with his disarming, "roast-like" introductions. Obviously, these men had shared many hours together in the "supportive atmosphere and caring environment" of the workshop, which is led by local playwright, George Birimisa.

The writers were from various backgrounds — educational, technical, and screenwriters, a computer specialist, and a writer for pre-Stonewall Gay rights organizations. And, of course, they had different responses to given themes, such as, "My Heart Skipped a Beat When . . ." from a son meeting his bereaved father at the airport, to

discovering "the man of my dreams," to ascending four flights when the elevator is out.

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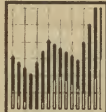
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Russian River Resort now has positions available for exp. housekeepers & bartenders. Call (707) 869-0060 for appt. or apply in person at THE WOODS. E14

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Spend summer on Russian River, Century 21 across from Fife's (707) 869-9006. E14

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Marc



Inflation-fighter Perm — \$40 complete
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Men's short cut — \$10

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\$50, Steve, 9"uc
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The men who use our service get connected together for a hot, erotic gay experience with other **Horny Guys** 24 hrs. a day. Do it now for **LESS THAN \$2.50** an hour.

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To see who can shoot the furthest and biggest wad. Compete or just come watch the jizz fly. Mixed Gay/Straight. Strictly J/O group. Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 PM. 583 Grove. 431-2188 \$3 donation to benefit Gay Rescue Mission. Help feed and shelter homeless Gays

MOVIES

Monday, 9PM, Mini Theatre
600 Fillmore, 552-7103
Alamo Square Saloon E8

HYPNOSIS CAN HELP YOU

Smoking Too Much? Overweight?
Sexual/Relationship Problems?
Daniel M. Pasutti,
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Wed., 8:30PM-10:30PM on giant screen. Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore at Fell. E8

Wanted: Young Latino, Asian or blonde for houseboy/masseur. Steve 626-4979 E14

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Changing the Way That Gay Men Find Friends/Lovers

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A national computerized introduction service for \$10/qr or \$25/yr. For questionnaire and info call 415/431-1158 E20

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Author of: *Financial Well-Being Through Self-Hypnosis* (Pinnacle Hall '83)

"Nutz" 'bout Titz 'n Nutz"

Do you prefer a treat — or a treatment? Description plus photo apprec. Attract. 40's guy wants you for silly putty. 2215-R Market Bx 212, SF 94114. Gofrit. E14

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ROSES ARE RED
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GIVE MAX A CHANCE
HE'S A LOT LIKE YOU
SONNY E14

Balding? Instahair for men, styling included \$95, 474-5983 E14

Need X-\$? Hot man - hot sex sks guy 6' w hot butt Wrt w/pic to Daddy c/o 1005 Market #207, San Francisco 94103 E14

Tony Romero, please contact Randy Schell at CUAU, 864-3112. E14

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Certified Hypnotherapist
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CHIROPRACTOR
552-7744 E14

Talk to Me! 654-9072

Are you a GM living with a straight woman? Writer wants to hear your story & politics. Louise Woo. E15

PAT DURAN

PLEASE CALL PINKIE
COLLECT 619-378-3537 E15

Boysish, slim hips, smooth? GWM 43 will give u head, rim. Box 29602 Oak. 94604. E14

GAY RESCUE MISSION

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Relaxation, sex problem, married bi's, Gay/Lesbian parents, male couples group. Redwood Center, 843-1396 E15

Novice sex slave, 35, seeks owner for humiliations; no pain scenes. Ed L., 1800 Market #118, SF 94102 E15

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• **Rubs Your Body** •
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• **HANDSOME** •
\$35/IN 474-3194 \$50/OUT

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or 1 hr. sensuous therapeutic combination tailored to your individual needs by young French athlete. 90% repeats!...
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BODYBUILDER
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Marco 861-7261 E15

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Serious only please!
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Will Smooth Your Tension
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BODY TRIPS 550-1247 E14

Best man-to-man massage! \$35 24 hrs. Ron 826-1076 E16

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SOUTH BAY AREA E14

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Enjoy a warm, sensual massage by a loving TANTRA-SHIATSU expert, done partly in a very warm bath. Simple breathing and movement awareness makes this a deeply relaxing, sensually invigorating experience, known in TANTRA as a "valley" orgasm.

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Horny? Cmplt Rub \$35 431-5871 E14

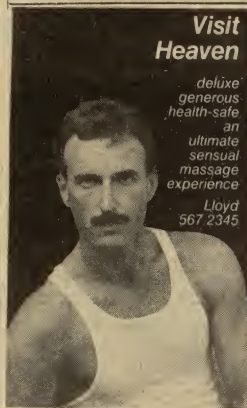
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THE HEALING ART OF
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17th/CASTRO \$30/SESSION
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\$40 for two wonderful hours.
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Real good rub down by a good looking young man.
My big hands work wonders on your tension and aches. Certified. \$30/in
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TOTAL RELAXATION BY A FRIENDLY AND HANDSOME GUY.
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6' 170#, 40°C, 14" A. GIVES A COMPLETE HOT OIL MASSAGE AND/OR A COOL BRISK FACIAL MASSAGE.
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Goodlooking, tight masculine build.
9'11", 6' 170#. Sensual and ready to please. Hourly/nightly.
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MANLY ANIMAL
DEAN 25, 6' 2" 46c Hairy 32w
Handsome well endowed model.
All of SF is raving about Light Brown Hair - Green eyes.
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muscular guys. Dave 563-9921 E14

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195#, 46°C, 16" A, sensual and talented, eager to be penetrated to the depths of your desire. For appt. Michael 641-0248 E14

Nude guy always ready downtown SF. Brian 398-6541 all hrs. E14

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8" x 8" is this u/c young (24) stud. Prefer sub. men ove 30. "Peter" 80/100 621-6177 E14

YOU CAN TOP THIS!
Very Handsome. 30. 6' 4" 190#
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PAUL 21, 6' 3" A Tall Drink of Water. 160 lbs. 40c Hairy, 32w, Black Hair & Blue Eyes. Tight Hard Body - Warm Form.
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into anything!
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Anything - Anytime \$35. 431-5871 E14

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Masc., tall, blonde, sexy jock. Lean-musc. body. Hung. Receptive man-hole. Roger 584-9695 \$85/out E16

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Well-Endowed Texan
will drill & bore your hole! Into most anything 863-1974 E14

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MAGNIFICENT STALLION
BEN 26, 6' 3" 44c Hairy 32w. Brown Hair & Eyes HOT - HUNG & Very Healthy - Tall Dark & Handsome. A real turn on!
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DANISH MAN
Handsome, 27, Nice Body.
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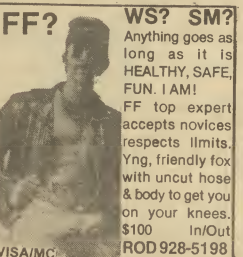
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RUMBLE-FISH RULES!
Musc. Matt Dillon-type master/top avail. for posing, roughhousing, fr., etc.; strictly health conscious. (WS/enemas, etc. Out Only). Verbal, adventurous; with leather and uniforms. Average fee \$75.
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PECKS, COCK, ASS
MIKE, Handsome 6', 185#
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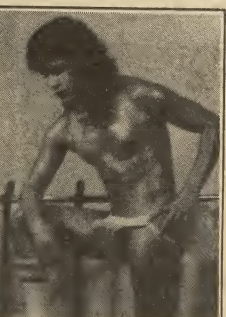
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Anything goes as long as it is HEALTHY, SAFE, FUN. I AM!
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Drew 29, 6' 160 lbs. 40c Smooth 29w Brown Hair & Eyes. Easy going. Masculine-Well Endowed. Available Evenings - Weekends.
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Very handsome guy with a smooth tight swimmer's build. Yeah really. Jack 474-8086 E14

YOUNG ATHLETE
Handsome 22 yr. old. Well-proportioned build. Masc & virile. Fergus 552-5134 E14

UNCUT, HAIRY
Top, 6'2", 185, br hair, moustache. In/Out \$50. Brian, 863-1936 anytime E14

On your knees and eat this big fat meat. Tall gdlg straight man. Joe 864-4018. Rough, hot. E14

SHORT BLONDE
Grad student, 23, cute and quite horny. Dave 665-8010 E14

Top - 6'2", 180, 26, over 8". Oral, anal, c/b, tits, bondage. Nice or not so nice. Early morn special. 864-4018 Tony E14

MALE STRIPPERS
821-3457 E13

9" j/o, oral expert \$35 431-5871 E14

Steven, 33, 6'2", 165#, hard hairy body, br hair beard/moust, very well hung. Anytime 647-9220 in or out. E16

GUY NEXT DOOR
PHILIP 21, 5' 11" 160 lbs. 40c. Hairy - Brown Hair & Eyes. Clean cut good looks. You'll enjoy having Phil around.
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SUPERHUNG
HOT GERMAN STUD
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A NICE GUY
Tough, boyish, masculine, tight build; goodlooking, hung thick.
#921-6991 \$75 E14

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Sensual 19 yr. old blonde with hot buns. Gary 550-0675 E14

MALE STRIPPERS
550-0675

ERIC, TALL NORDIC STUD
19 yrs, good looks, 928-0135 E14

\$20 - Hot athlete. Hung nice. • Bill, 441-1054. Massage, etc. E19

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50°C 19" a 31" w 928-0135 E14

Talented young college graduate. Distinction with class. Unbelievably handsome & uninhibited. Dave 550-0675 E14

Love men over 30. Alan, 23, 5'6", hot white ass, \$35/50, out of SF \$60, 558-9656 E14

GIGANTICALLY HUNG
641-0248 E14

J/O & Exhib. Rod 928-5826 E19

#1 MUSCLE
54c, 20a, 32w, 30t, 20ca, 245#, 6'4", 34 yr, hndsm contest bb. Posing, muscles, J/O. Todd (415) 621-1066, call back req. E14

ITALIAN STUD
Young, laid-back, lean, smooth, gentle & best of all ... hung like a stallion. Mario 921-6991 \$75 E14

COLLEGE JOCK
BRIAN 22, 6' 2", 180 lbs. Solid Smooth 44" Chest, Brown Hair & Blue Eyes. Available Days & Weekends. Handsome - Friendly.
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Very handsome, smooth, clean, healthy, erotic, hot hunk: Todd.
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UNCUT LATINO
9" LONG - THICK
W/Big Smooth Balls
Goodlooking - Hung
5'10" 160# \$75
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Oakland student, 28, needs \$. 5'5", 140, hairy. \$60/hr. J/O, Fr/I/P, Gr/A, etc. Marc 444-3204 E17

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Lush unct. Eric 408-336-5077 E15

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BAY AREA REPORTER APRIL 5, 1984 PAGE 35

JAPANTOWN BOWL

1790 POST ST. S.E. (415) 921-6200

Gay Bowling Leagues 1984 Summer Schedule

<u>MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE</u>	Bowls on Monday nights at 8:45 p.m. - There are 5 people on each team - Cost of bowling is \$7.50 per week - Handicap is 80% - League starts bowling on June 4th - <i>THIS IS SAN FRANCISCO'S OLDEST GAY LEAGUE.</i>
<u>TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE</u>	Bowls on Tuesday nights at 8:45 p.m. - There are 5 people on each team - Cost of bowling is \$7.50 per week - Handicap is 90% - League starts bowling on May 22nd - <i>WE HAVE 18 TEAMS NOW AND ARE SHOOTING FOR 20 IN THE SUMMER LEAGUE.</i>
<u>WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE</u>	Bowls on Wednesdays at 8:45 p.m. - There are 5 people on each team - Cost of bowling is \$7.50 per week - Handicap is 80% - League starts bowling on May 16th - <i>THIS LEAGUE ALWAYS FILLS EARLY; SO IF WEDNESDAY IS YOUR CHOICE, YOU'D BETTER SIGN UP EARLY</i>
<u>THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE</u>	Bowls on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. - There are 3 people per team - Cost of bowling is \$5.50 per week - Handicap is 90% - League starts bowling on May 17th - <i>THIS IS THE ONLY AFTERNOON GAY LEAGUE DURING THE WEEK FOR YOU BARTENDERS AND NIGHT WORKERS; DON'T MISS IT</i>
<u>THURSDAY NIGHT SCRATCH TRIOS</u> <u>NEW - NEW - NEW - NEW - NEW</u>	Bowls on Thursday nights at 8:45 p.m. - There are 3 people per team - Cost of bowling is \$10.00 per week - League starts bowling on May 10th - <i>THIS ONE'S FOR YOU SERIOUS BOWLERS WHO WANT A CHALLENGE EVERY WEEK. YOU BOWL 4 GAMES IN THIS LEAGUE. MAX TEAM AVERAGE IS 480</i>
<u>FRIDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE</u>	Bowls on Friday nights at 6:30 p.m. - There are 4 people per team - Cost of bowling is \$7.50 per week - Handicap is 100% - League starts bowling on June 1st - <i>THIS LEAGUE WAS NEW LAST WINTER AND WE EXPECT IT TO EXPAND FAST SO DON'T MISS THE START OF A GREAT WEEKEND EVERY WEEKEND</i>
<u>SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE</u>	Bowls on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. - There are 4 people per team - Cost of bowling is \$9.50 per week - Handicap is 90% - League starts bowling on June 3rd - <i>EVERYONE IN THIS LEAGUE GOES TO RENO (ALL EXPENSES EXCEPT FOOD ARE PAID) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEASON</i>

**ALL THESE LEAGUES ARE FUN LEAGUES AND IT IS NOT
NECESSARY TO BE A GOOD BOWLER TO HAVE FUN!!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN ANY OF THESE LEAGUES
PLEASE CONTACT: TERRY KAPLAN (415) 921-6200**